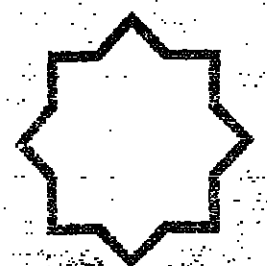


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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

King Hussein, Mubarak, Arafat call on Netanyahu to resume peace process

By a Star Staff Writer

AMMAN—The leaders of Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians have called on the newly elected Israeli prime minister to resume the course of peace and stressed their commitment to pursue intensified efforts to build a unified Arab stand. As a continuation to the Cairo summit which was held on 10 May, His Majesty King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and President Yasser Arafat, met in Amman on Wednesday to assess the impact of the results of Israeli elections on the Middle East process.

The meeting was held at a crucial time especially for the Palestinians who are anxious to resume the final status negotiations with Israel. The right-wing victory in Israel has cast doubts over the prospects of a breakthrough on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as well.

Arab movement, in reaction to Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu's victory over Prime Minister Shimon Peres, is expected to intensify with another unilateral summit between the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia expected to take place in Riyadh Saturday. On Monday, President Hafez Assad flew to Cairo to discuss with President Mubarak the outcome of the Israeli elections. The three

leaders meeting in Amman stressed the need for Arab coordination to face the coming challenges.

The Amman meeting emphasized the need to intensify efforts to continue the peace process and ensure commitment to the peace agreements. The three leaders, in a joint statement released after their one-day summit, also stressed the necessity to support the Palestinians in the final status negotiations with Israel. They also called for the resumption of talks on the Syrian-Israeli track in order to reach a comprehensive and just peace based on the UN resolutions 242 and 338 on which the Madrid conference was based.

In a joint press conference after concluding their talks, King Hussein stressed that "such friendly meetings between Arab leaders will continue to discuss all means of coordination and cooperation for the benefit of the Arab people."

The King expressed hopes that the summit will be a base for more meetings that will include all Arab countries. The King stressed that the Israeli elections were an internal Israeli issue and that he did not expect it to damage the peace process.

The King reiterated Jordan's position in supporting the Pal-



Photo by K. Maczawi

estian people and their elected leadership. Commenting on Jordan's relations with Syria, the King said that Jordan and Syria had certain differences in views and convictions and that these differences can be resolved.

President Mubarak on his part said the meeting focused on Arab concerns, but added

that it was too early to pronounce judgements on the new Israeli leadership. He added that the three leaders discussed ways to rebuild Arab solidarity.

President Arafat said the Palestinians are still optimistic about resuming negotiations with Israel and called on the Israeli government to respect

its commitments to the Palestinian people.

The Amman deliberations were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials from Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority. The leaders reviewed ways to support the Palestinians in the final negotiation towards the achiev-

ment of their legal rights on their land, particularly the Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem.

The leaders called upon the new Israeli government to continue the peace process on the principles agreed upon at the Madrid conference. They emphasized their conviction that peace is an irreversible strategic option for all parties in the region.

On the other hand, Jordanian opposition parties issued a statement to the leaders meeting in Amman in which they warned against "Zionist designs to set up a greater Israel" adding that the results of the Israeli elections prove that Israel still harbors expansionist plans.

The statement, which was signed by 8 opposition parties, called on the leaders to mobilize efforts to face the Israeli threats adding that the convening of an Arab summit has become an urgent demand. The statement added that relying on US support will not serve Arab interests nor will these interest be served by betting on an Israeli peace program.

The statement reminded the leaders of Netanyahu's declared position from Jerusalem, Hebron, the Golan, settlements and security. "The danger threatens all Arabs without exception," the statement concluded.

L'Onu sanctionnée pour ses sanctions
A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURDAIN

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Security forces thwart plots aimed at destabilizing Kingdom

By Raed Al Abed

AMMAN—The Jordanian security forces have thwarted a series of plots aimed at destabilizing the kingdom, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Information.

The statement said that the security forces arrested several individuals and dismantled a network that was planning to carry out a series of attacks on government buildings and infrastructure.

Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti previously announced that the authorities had uncovered 36 terrorist attempts during the last three months. But since the government never disclosed details, some opposition parties doubted the government's claim.

But more recently official sources disclosed that threats against Jordan had come specifically from Syria. They added that such threats were aborted and people involved were arrested.

"Some foreign parties are launching extensive campaigns to threaten the security of Jordan," Minister of Information

Dr Marwan Muasher said in his Monday meeting with the press. While stopping short of pointing the finger at a specific state, Dr Muasher confirmed that the culprits were arrested.

"Through these arrests we unveiled plans by some people against the stability and security of the country," he said. He added that investigations are being carried out "but those who are proved innocent will be released."

Official sources told The Star that the general prosecutor of the State Security Court received files on four radical groups who were planning violent attacks in the country.

One of these groups belongs to the Popular Front-General Command (PFGC) which is led by Ahmad Jibril and is based in Syria. The PFGC is reported to be close to Libya and is financially backed by Iran.

Security sources said that three members of this group were arrested in March in northern Jordan. The group was carrying explosives and machine guns.

The group was arrested by the army as its members were trying to cross into Jordan

through the Syrian border. Their direction was Bagdadi land that was returned by Israel as a result of the 1994 peace treaty), sources said.

An official source said the group was planning to smuggle weapons to sympathizers in Jordan. Some of the weapons would then be sent to PFGC supporters in the West Bank to target Israelis.

Because of the quantity of the arms and documents seized, the security forces confirmed that the group was planning a series of terrorist attacks in Jordan. Some officials pointed the finger to Syria and Iran who hosted some of these radical groups.

The general prosecutor of the Court of State Security has completed his investigations and is now ready to present them in court.

Other security reports talk of another group that was arrested with 24 landmines in its possession. The group was arrested after several reports received by the military intelligence. Reports said that these were to be used against Israeli tourists coming in through the Sheikh Hussein Bridge. The group

obtained the landmines from a minefield near their village in the north of the country. The security forces also seized several machine guns and three explosive belts which were carried by the group. The sources said that the suspects confessed and are expected to stand trial in the coming week. They will be charged with the illegal acquisition of explosive material.

The security sources added that another plot was discovered by police resulting in the arrest of four suspects, two Jordanians, an Iraqi and an Egyptian. They had in possession 40 kilograms of radiant red mercury that is used for bomb-making. The sources added that a piece of paper was seized showing, a handwriting, the chemical equation for explosive materials.

Another group of four people was also arrested. The group had planned to carry out terrorist activities against important institutions in the country. Investigations are still underway, sources confirmed.

Turkey strengthens ties with Israel
By John Pomfret
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

It's decision time for Netanyahu

By Nicholas Goldberg
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

ANKARA, Turkey—Turkey is bolstering its military ties with Israel in a move many Turkish officials say is necessary to maintain the strategically important country's stability in a volatile region.

The effort involves a joint training agreement with the Israeli air force and navy, concluded in February. Turkey and Israel are also discussing weapons sales and the use of Israeli technology to police Turkey's porous borders, Turkish and Israeli officials say.

The Turkish move comes amid signs of increasing tension between Turkey and its historically unfriendly and unstable neighbors. Turkey's relations with Iran and Greece have recently deteriorated. Ties with its Arab neighbors, Iraq and Syria, also continue to be strained.

In addition, Turkey and Israel are both non-Arab countries in a region populated mainly by Arabs, and both seek

potential partners: Bearded rabbis, Jewish settlers and Russian immigrants are in and out of his offices, cutting deals and jostling one another in bids for power. The ultra-Orthodox are demanding construction of religious schools and new housing. Settlers want to expand their West Bank holdings. One religious party reportedly demanded the shutdown of the non-kosher McDonald's in Jerusalem that is open on the Sabbath.

"Bibi knows my telephone number," said Yuli Edelstein, a leader of the Yisrael B'Aliyah party of Russian immigrants—using Netanyahu's nickname and making it clear that he expected to be wooed. He probably will be.

Now is crunch time for Netanyahu. He needs to create a stable coalition that will give

Continued on page 3

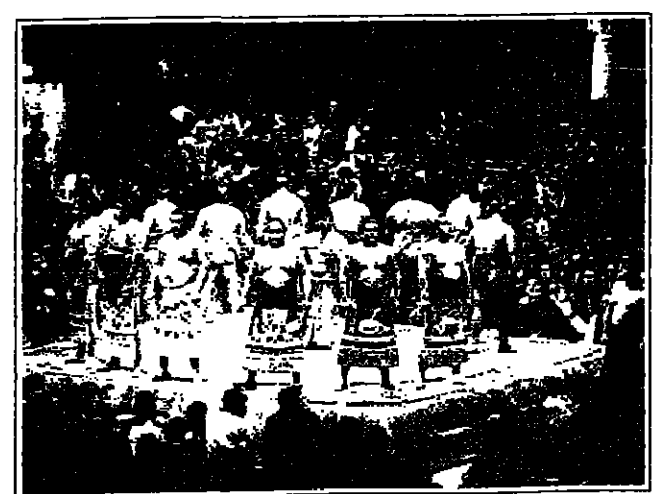
Sumo wrestler meets his 88-pound match

By Kevin Sullivan and Mary Jordan
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

TOKYO—Akebono's belly is a majestic thing, a rolling, heaving, wobbling mass of blubber. When he stomps around the sumo wrestling ring, his great middle jiggles from his jaws to his monstrous butt, barely covered by his loincloth.

And the women go wild. The 26-year-old Hawaiian is something of a sex symbol in Japan, even though he weighs 462 pounds. The Japanese tabloid press chronicles his love life with the kind of breathless frenzy that People magazine in the US reserves for Brad Pitt. Countless teenage girls idolize him.

But last Monday came the news the young giant feared most: Akebono is off the market. At the end of the Summer



Grand Sumo Tournament on Sunday night, Akebono told reporters that he is in love with, and wants to spend the rest of his life with, TV personality Yu Aihara. For his fans, this is like losing John F. Kennedy Jr. to that blonde.

"Until now we had to see

each other secretly," Akebono told the reporters. "I love everything about her. She is the person who is beside me when I am suffering. ... We will be together for our whole lives."

Continued on page 2

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JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

King has every confidence in PM

HM King Hussein told chief editors of daily and weekly newspapers that he was fully confident with the government of Abdel Karim Al Kabarti. In a meeting at the Royal Court this week, the King said he was proud of Jordan's democracy, something which he hoped would be an example to others. He said the democratic experiment must be seen as a source of strength. He urged journalists to stay away from publishing libelous, slanderous and harmful material in the name of democracy.



"We want our press to be one of enlightened opinions and intellectualism and its voice to be heard all over the world," the King stated. He told the editors at the meeting which was attended by Prime Minister Kabarti, that there is no reason for pessimism and that Jordan will remain committed to its stand to support Palestinian rights. The President of Jordan's Press Association, Mr Suleiman Al Qudah, said there was a need for a code of honor, that stresses the ethics of the journalist profession. He said the government will discuss ways to introduce that code into the draft Press Association law before sending it to the Lower House.

Opinion poll mixed on Kabarti government

The latest opinion poll on the performance of the Kabarti government produced mixed results to say the least. The University of Jordan's Center of Strategic Studies, which polled more than 1,200 people between 17-19 May, found out that more than 32 percent among the general public still believe that the government is more than able "to a large extent" to carry out its responsibilities. However, this percentage has fallen from more than 45 percent when a similar poll was taken on 6 February, two days after the Kabarti government assumed office. But wait, the 32 percent figure soon drops to less than 19 percent in the "opinion leaders category." This is a sample of 678 and includes Lower House deputies, former ministers, leaders of political parties, union leaders, businessmen and journalists. That figure was 51.7 percent when the government

assumed office. About 14 percent in this category believe that the government is no longer able to shoulder its responsibilities.

JPA and government reach compromise

The government and Jordan Press Association (JPA) might be coming together after all. The government had earlier drafted a new JPA law, that was published in newspapers, without even consulting the association. This prompted the JPA to launch an attack on Minister of Information Dr Marwan Muasher and even threaten a sit-in in front of the Prime Ministry. But Prime Minister Kabarti summoned the JPA council in an attempt to cool down tempers. Dr Muasher has denied that he was ignoring the JPA. But, in its meeting with the Prime Minister, the council agreed to continue its negotiations with the government. Both sides also agreed to redraft certain articles and insert new ones especially

those relating to professional ethics. The JPA wanted had argued that the draft law is in danger of turning the "association into a society devoid of its professional status," a statement released by the JPA pointed out. It stated that this will create chaos in the journalistic field. But the JPA still has a major sticking point. It wants to maintain a "closed shop" on membership saying that journalists must serve for a specified period before they could join the association. The government maintains that this is unfair since some non members have been practicing for the last 20 years or more. JPA will have its election on 5 July.

Al Bilad's publisher in trouble

The publisher of Al Bilad, Nayef Al Tawra was arrested last week for allegedly possessing \$100,000 forged notes. Press reports said Mr Tawra was under surveillance by the police since 22 May. He was stopped by the police last week and allegedly told investigators that the money was obtained from Qusai, the younger son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Later in the week, *Ad Dustour* reported that the suspect, without naming Mr Al Tawra, was being questioned for breaching the Press and Publication Law which states that no journalist may accept finance from a foreign source. The defendant told the public prosecutor that he was not guilty and has appointed a three-man legal committee to defend him. The court so far has refused to grant him bail.

Nurses want government's commitment

Nurses in the public sector have staged a two-hour strike on Wednesday to demand a pay increase. A day before the strike, officials of the Jordan Nursing Association (JNA) met with Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti. Despite promises by Kabarti to look into the nurses' demands, JNA officials felt it was necessary to go ahead with the strike to show the government that they are serious. The nurses are demanding a 90 percent pay rise, instead of the 50 percent they have been offered. They also want an incentive allowance system. There are 2,200

nurses in the public health sector, and further strikes could prove disruptive. JNA officials are not satisfied with Mr Kabarti's promise and are demanding a written commitment from the government.

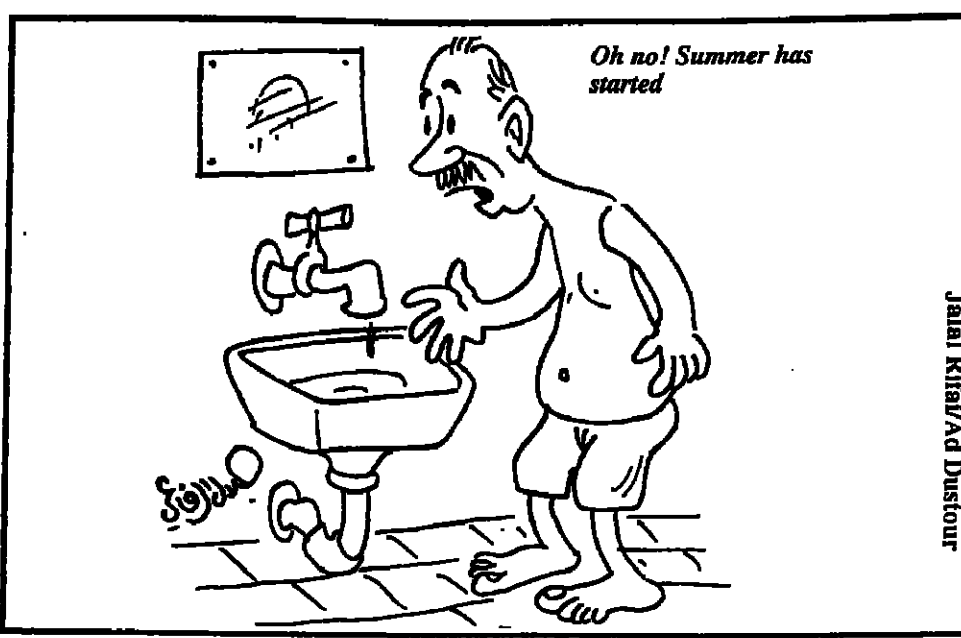
Government takes mayor to court

The government may be at last putting its money where its mouth is and cracking on corruption. Minister of Municipal Affairs, Dr Abed Al Razzaq Tbeishat, has suspended the mayor of the Kufranjiah *Tbeishat* in the Ajloun Governorate. The mayor is being questioned by the Ajloun public prosecutor on matters of financial wrongdoing. Dr Tbeishat told Al Rai that the mayor will be suspended pending the decision of the court. The minister had already suspended mayors of Karamah, Ba'aoun and A'look. They are facing similar charges.



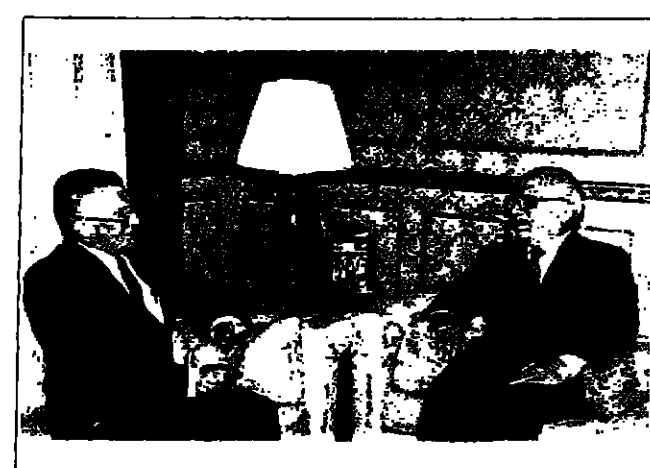
Water issue must be on agenda

Jordan will face a major water crisis between the next 10 to 20 years. This is not mere scare mongering that occurs at the beginning of every summer, but it is a reality according to World Bank experts meeting in Istanbul at the HABITAT II meeting. There will be a seminar on water in July held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan. This is seen as part of the preparations for the world summit on water that is due to start at the beginning of next year. The summit is expected to be held in Amman. On the local level, water shortages are a major headache. Water networks over the country are in a state of disrepair and there is a lot of seepage. It is really up to the Minister of Water and Irrigation to do something about the situation. They can, but it is a question of money. One way for this extensive modernization is to raise the price of water. It is argued that



Relations between US and Jordan increase

Amman—The United States and Jordan have a very strong relationship, between nations and between armed forces. General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said 31 May, as he departed from Amman.



Shalikashvili, who was visiting Jordan to "renew personal friendships and to strengthen and assess the friendship between the military of the United States and Jordan," met with His Majesty King Hussein and with HRH Crown Prince Hassan, in addition to military and civilian officials.

He had high praise for the military cooperation between the two countries, saying it "is on very sound footing, and... both Field Marshall Mureed and I are pledged to build on that strength that already exists here and to ensure that we carry that relationship forward."

Shalikashvili noted that from all of his discussions in Amman, "it is clear that the Middle East peace process is irreversible and that certainly Jordan has set the model as it entered into a peace agreement with Israel."

In response to a question about the threat from Iran, the General stressed that "Iran poses a threat through its support for state-sponsored terrorism, through its attempts to destabilize this region... So all of us need to be concerned with that."

Economic relations with Kuwait could be warming up

The issue of resuming diplomatic relations with Kuwait could be hotting up again. After the news that our embassy in Kuwait would be opened shortly, an official invitation was issued by the Kuwaiti government to Dr Ali Al Khasawneh, who is a member of Jordan's businessmen Organization. Dr Ali Khasawneh who is on five-day visit has attended an official reception to honor the retirement of Mr Abd Al Aziz Al Saqr, the long-time secretary-general of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Com-

merce. The reception was held under the patronage of the Emir of Kuwait, Shaikh Jaber Al Sabah. Dr Khasawneh has met high ranking members from the private sector in Kuwait with a view to carrying out economic projects.

Roads open up between Amman-Tel Aviv

Its all systems go. The transport routes between Jordan and Israel are to open: As of 9 June, public transport services are to start operations. However trucks and boats have to wait till 26 June. The Transport Minister, Mr Nasser Al Lawzi, said that there will be initially 12 trips daily, three from Amman, two from Irbid and

one from Aqaba. He said that a one way from Amman to Tel Aviv will cost \$7 while Amman to Nazareth \$6.

Shbeilat, a royal pardon!

Leith Shbeilat, the convicted president of Jordan's Engineers Association, will be given a royal pardon very soon according to Al Majd. This would be a special pardon issued by His Majesty King Hussein. However, close sources said that this could be given after the King returns from the United States, a week-long visit that starts today, Thursday. If Shbeilat is pardoned then it will be the second time that he gets off the hook through Royal intervention.

Interfaith dialogue stresses importance of education for coexistence

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

THE EDUCATIONAL system in Islam and Christianity was the main focus of the interfaith conference that was held by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research (AICR) last Monday at the Regency Hotel. The meeting was the 7th in a chain of others patronized by HRH Crown Prince Hassan in cooperation with the Orthodox Center of Chambesy in Switzerland.

Being a part of a series of dialogues between Christians and Muslims, the conference was attended by academics, researchers and theologians from different parts of the world who stressed the role of religion in providing comprehensive educational systems. The symposium was chaired by Professor Nasser Al Din Al Assad, president of (AICR), and Professor Damaskinos Papandreou, president of Orthodox Center of Ecumenical Patriarchate. Papandreou said that we must emphasize through the educational process how we may plan and realize a code of common values with respect to God, humankind and the world in accordance with our analysis of these values.

The monotheistic faiths have much in common through which they can formulate a base enabling them to come up with a unified perspective on life. When it comes to education we are talking about something quite indispensable for the human beings since it, as HRH said,

Continued on page 3

Sumo wrestler

Continued from page 1

Some tabloid sports pages last Monday were devoted to Akebono's flame, an actress so small she once played Peter Pan. She is 5 feet 2 1/2 inches, almost 18 inches shorter than her honey. The tabloid papers reported that she has a 32-inch bust, 22-inch waist and 33-inch hips. (Apparently they thought Akebono's fans should know this.) Think of it. The 6-foot-8 Sumo stud, a man once described by *Time* magazine as the "Prince of Whales," and the waiflike, 88-pound former singer.

Like Akebono, who is actually Chad Rowan from Honolulu, Aihara goes by a professional name. Her real name is Yasuko Obara; she is 29 and hails from Hiroshima. At her own news conference last Monday, Aihara told reporters, "He means everything to me."

Akebono's announcement comes after a disappointing 10-5 record in the Summer Grand Sumo Tournament, and many expect that the former grand champion will soon retire. Last April he was granted Japanese citizenship, a step, he said in an interview, that was necessary for "me to realize my dream: to teach sumo."

"I'm just a regular guy," joked Akebono in that interview after his morning workout, showing the funny, self-deprecating style that has made him the kind of star Japan loves. "What women? I don't see any women around me," he said, pretending to look around his Texas of a body for clinging-on starlets. Had he looked a little closer, he might have noticed the gang of young girls kneeling around the sumo ring while he worked out, gazing up at their hero.

"He's such a character," he tells jokes, he says funny things," said a flushed 14-year-old girl from North Hanazumi Junior High School, who was waiting to get Akebono's trademark "autograph," a huge handprint in red ink slapped on a large piece of paper. "There is no feeling whatsoever that he's a foreigner—he is like us."

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Turkey strengthens ties with Israel

Continued from page 1

to orient themselves more toward Europe and the United States than toward their Arab neighbors.

In that light, Turkey's decision to pursue closer military ties with Israel has stirred controversy in the region and among Turkey's predominantly Muslim population.

Iran and Syria sharply criticized Turkey's move to allow Israeli air force pilots to train in Turkey's airspace—not least because one Turkish air base is situated in Konya, a center of Islam in Turkey.

Inside Turkey, this country's swing toward Israel comes as the nation, formed in 1923 by a pro-Western military commander, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, is caught in a political struggle between those who believe it should maintain its secular, pro-Western course and an increasingly powerful movement that backs a return to its Muslim roots and a rejection of its NATO membership and close partnership with the United States.

On 18 May, an unemployed pharmacist who opposed the defense pact with Israel, Ibrahim Gumrukcuoglu, attempted to kill President Suleyman

Demirel. While the assailant is believed to have acted alone, diplomats said his opposition to the deal reflects the political crisis embroiling Turkish society.

Gen. Cevik Bir, the deputy chief of the general staff, said Turkey concluded the agreement because "Turkey and Israel are the two democratic countries in the region, and we must show the region that democracies can work together."

Analysts, however, point to other reasons. One senior Turkish diplomat bemoaned his homeland as "being damned by geography." Three of its neighbors—Iran, Iraq and Syria—are on the State Department's list of nations supporting terrorism. Ties with a fourth, Greece, are strained because of quarrels involving Aegean airspace, seabed rights and sovereignty over some Aegean islands close to the Turkish coast, and perennial tension over Cyprus. To the east, the countries of the former Soviet Caucasus region remain unpredictable.

In mid-January, Turkish police caught six large Iranian trucks packed with weapons in the southern town of Sanliurfa. Officials said the cache was

bound for pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon and came at a time when Syria, responding to US pressure, apparently had closed its airport to deliveries of Iranian guns.

Two months later, ties were strained further when a Turkish hit man implicated Iranian diplomats in ordering terrorist acts, including the slaying of a Turkish journalist. The two countries expelled a total of 12 diplomats.

In February, Turkey and Israel signed the military-training agreement; the change in Israeli governments brought on by last week's elections is not expected to alter the accord.

Initially, Turkish officials said the deal would be limited to allowing Israeli pilots to use Turkey's larger airspace to practice. But in an interview, Bir said joint naval maneuvers are also being considered. The Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, meanwhile, reported that Turkey would allow Israel to conduct electronic surveillance flights along Turkey's borders with Iran, Iraq and Syria. In exchange, it said, Israel would help Turkey secure its borders against infiltration by Kurdish separatist guerrillas.

Bir confirmed that the two nations are discussing the transfer of Israeli border-monitoring technology. But Omer Akbel, a spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry, denied that Israeli warplanes would be allowed to snoop on Turkey's neighbors.

Turkey and Israel have reportedly been negotiating a \$600 million deal under which Israel would refit Turkey's fleet of F-4 Phantom fighters with modern avionics.

An Israeli diplomat said Israel has been short-listed for a contract to replace the Turkish army's assault rifle, the German-made G3, with the Israeli-made Galil. Turkey has also flirted with the idea of buying Israeli-fitted KC-135 in-flight refueling aircraft.

The Israeli diplomat noted that unlike the United States, Israel attaches no human-rights conditions to its weapons sales.

Jordan-Europe Business Association holds open meeting

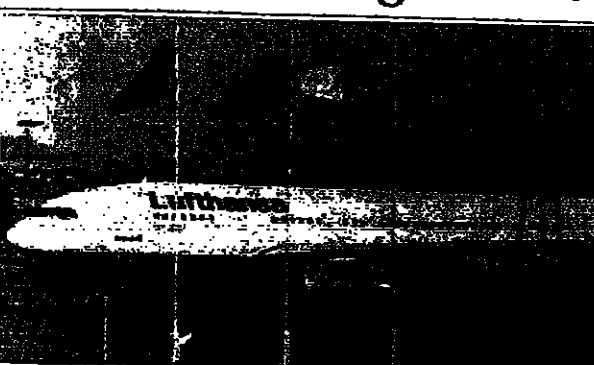
THE JORDAN Europe Business Association (JEBA) held its first meeting at the Amman Marriott on Sunday 2 June. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the next phase of the Association's activities as well as to introduce non-members to JEBA.

Founded in January of this year, JEBA is a non-profit organization whose principal aim is to strengthen ties between the Jordanian private sector and the European Union. The Association's plans include holding such meetings periodically, in principle at least once every two months.

The Association seeks to inform local and European business communities of the Associations aims: Gather information about European economic and business programs for the use of Association members; Develop a comprehensive data bank encompassing all activities of the Association, its members, and their European visitors; organize meetings between Association members and European economic delegations visiting Jordan. These are just one of the aims of the association.

The well-attended gathering, chaired by JEBA President Mohammad Fayez Khatib, agreed to the formation of follow-up committees which will be meeting shortly.

Lufthansa Cargo voted best by Air Cargo News



LUFTHANSA CARGO has been recognised as the best cargo carrier in the world, after being awarded the prestigious Cargo Airline of the Year trophy by *Air Cargo News* at a high-profile presentation ceremony in London.

Lufthansa Cargo has been voted best cargo airline four times in the 11 years of the *Air Cargo News* awards scheme, highlighting the German cargo company's commitment to excellence within the industry. The award is the result of a 1996 worldwide poll of airfreight forwarders.

Receipt of this latest award comes within one year of Lufthansa Cargo AG's new status as a fully independent company within the Lufthansa Group. Commenting on Lufthansa Cargo's performance at the awards ceremony, Nigel Tomkins, *Air Cargo News* editor said: "It's clear that Lufthansa Cargo's courageous step of freeing itself from the restrictions of the passenger business is paying a rich dividend, and the company is clearly out in front as it expands its global presence in line with the movement of world trade."

Interfaith dialogue stresses importance of education for coexistence

Continued from page 2

people's souls, builds a bridge for the rising tide of Islam fearing de-

struction of its information with

throughout the world, the meeting of their faiths. "The most important thing is that we must have a common goal that such me-

to reflect a more objective view of the world. The text of the conference stressed the importance of education in building a bridge between the two religions.

On the other hand, Mr. Omer Akbel, a spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry, denied that Israeli warplanes would be allowed to snoop on Turkey's neighbors.

Now, does religion stand in the way of education? Said Akbel, "There is no feeling whatsoever that he's a foreigner—he is like us."

Interfaith dialogue stresses importance education coexistence

By Munther Al Masri
Star Staff Writer

THE EDUCATIONAL system in Jordan is slowly slipping from the list of priorities of the common man. That man in the street, the average Jordanian, is no longer the main protagonist in the fight for democratic evolution and progress. Sadly, the centrality of democracy in our lives is slowly eroding from the public mind; it is no longer an inspiration, but another government institution. For the common man democracy, and its applications, are as distant as the moon from the worries and tribulations of his daily life. The common man's quest for food, shelter, decent job and security is not correlated to the ebb and low of the democratic activity.

Meanwhile, not a day would pass without some official, high or low, reminding the common man that democracy is the greatest thing to happen in Jordan. It is as if we take the credit, as a nation, for inventing the concept.

So while the Lower House enjoys an unusual slumber in the warm June sun, the one prominent form of democratic activity that the common man may be able to watch, although with growing indifference, is the heating up in relations between the government and the fringe press. Locked in an ludicrous battle, the common man may find the yellow press amusing nothing more.

But neither the government nor the yellow press care much for the ills and plights of the common man. In recent weeks, the government of Abdel Karim Kabariti has come under fire from some, not all, weeklies. Under the guise of 100 days in government, writers amused themselves, and the public, by performing some sort of autopsy on the nascent cabinet. Their conclusion? Kabariti has failed to translate the grand promises of his white revolutionary government into reality. But that is not everyone's opinion. It is the opinion of few weekly papers—some of which have a sizable reach while others do not. The papers dealt with the issue in different ways. Some writers called on Mr. Kabariti to resign, while others were content with bombarding him and his team of ministers with all sorts of accusations.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kabariti had the mainstream dailies neutralized. None has joined the ranks of the belligerents attacking him or his government. But that is not to say that the euphoria which accompanied formation of the government in February was still there.

So is Mr. Kabariti worried? He shouldn't be. But some think he is.

Mr. Kabariti's fate will not be decided by the editorials of *Shihani*, *Al Bilad* or *Al Majd*. To think so would be giving them too much credit. That's lesson number one.

Lesson number two is that by showing his irritation at what some papers have written against him means that Mr. Kabariti's resolve to concentrate on the big challenges of the day could wane easily and unjustifiably. Has his resolve waned? Is he distracted? Is his irritation an indication of a developing psychological state of mind?

And now for lesson number three. Democracy and free press should not be confused as one thing. While the first is a comprehensive political, social and economic option for people to directly govern themselves; the second is an outcome of this system acting as a safety valve against any aberration in the implementation of the system. And it just happens that where one has democracy, one has a free press. One is measured by the existence of the other.

And if there is a lesson to learn here it is that there is no perfect system of government and by the same token there is no perfect press.

One can have free enterprise in an authoritarian country; Chile under Pinochet, Taiwan under Chai Kai Check. But one cannot have democracy without free press and certainly the opposite is true.

So the moral of this presentation is the following: Mr. Kabariti, and others, can surely judge the press, but that means he has to apply the same judgment to democracy as well. And that would open too many cans of worms.

So in the final analysis, Mr. Kabariti should look at like this: Since we do not have the sort of democracy that say Britain, Israel or the United States have, and certainly not their kind of free press, where politicians from presidents and prime ministers to smaller public servants get a beating everyday, it is really not that painful to get a bad press every now and then from less influential weekly tabloids.

Mr. Kabariti's real challenge is not to woo a few disgruntled, under paid, over confident editors, but to rekindle the interest and support of the building block of any democracy, the common man.

Sumo wrestling

Continued from page 2

Some of the papers that have attacked the government are *Shihani*, *Al Bilad* and *Al Majd*. These papers are known for their critical stance towards the government. The government, however, has remained silent on these attacks, focusing instead on its policies and the challenges it faces. This silence has led to speculation about the government's confidence in its own leadership and its ability to handle criticism. The common man, however, remains the central figure in the political discourse, with his needs and aspirations driving the government's actions.

At the moment, the government is facing a series of challenges, both internal and external. The internal challenges include the need to reform the educational system and to improve the standard of living for the common man. The external challenges include the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the need to maintain peace and stability in the region. The government's response to these challenges will determine its success in the eyes of the common man.

People & Politics

A case for the common man

■ The irony of Jordanian democracy today is that it has slowly slipped from the list of priorities of the common man. That man in the street, the average Jordanian, is no longer the main protagonist in the fight for democratic evolution and progress. Sadly, the centrality of democracy in our lives is slowly eroding from the public mind; it is no longer an inspiration, but another government institution. For the common man democracy, and its applications, are as distant as the moon from the worries and tribulations of his daily life. The common man's quest for food, shelter, decent job and security is not correlated to the ebb and low of the democratic activity.



Kabariti

Being a part of a democracy is not a day would pass without some official, high or low, reminding the common man that democracy is the greatest thing to happen in Jordan. It is as if we take the credit, as a nation, for inventing the concept.

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Interfaith dialogue stresses importance of education for coexistence

Continued from page 2

"moulds people's souls, builds their minds and characters and constitutes a basis for the rise and progress of nations." He added that in Islam learning does not mean mere memorization of bits of information without comprehension and assimilation.

Though unofficial, the meeting was an opportunity for Muslim and Christian intellectuals to enhance mutual understanding of their faiths. "The most important thing in education is the value system that is shared by different religions," Munther Al Masri, minister of education told *The Star*. He added that this system, derived from religion, should be incorporated into the educational system.

Another main goal that such meetings aspire to achieve is the readjustment of the educational curricula in Muslim and Christian societies. The readjustment must be carried out in order to reflect a more objective picture about Islam and Christianity throughout the textbooks of the schools of these countries. Our curricula, stressed Al Masri, have a lot of information about Christianity unlike other countries which still have a vague vision about Islam. Moreover, he added, some western countries forbid teaching religion in its schools limiting the acquisition of religious knowledge to churches. On the other hand, Mr. Grigoris Ziakas, a Greek professor, asserted that in his country they have books that project Islamic teachings objectively recommending that their curricula should be readjusted. "We want our Muslim brothers to do the same thing" Said Ziakas.

But where does religion stand in a rapidly changing world. How can religious teachings cope with a purely materialistic world and help people lead easier lives. Religion said Raouf Abu Jaber, chairman of the Arab Orthodox Society, envelopes all different aspects of life and, for example, the fact that Islam is a religion for every time and place makes it a whole system that can prove itself in modern life.



● HRH Crown Prince Hassan, hosting a luncheon for participants in the conference on the Educational System in Islam and Christianity. The luncheon, which was held on Monday, was also attended by HRH Princess Rahma. (See related story).

Salim Al Zanoun, president of the PNC

'Despite the outcome of the Israeli elections, we are on our land...'

EDITOR'S NOTE: Salim Al Zanoun is the president of the Palestine National Council. A long-time member of the Palestine Liberation Organization, he has long been active in the policy-making process. He talked to the Star's Rael Al Abed about the latest Israeli election and its implications for the peace process. Excerpts follow:

Observers said Palestinians will suffer more after the victory of Likud in the latest elections. How do you feel?

We have to realize that Israelis elected a prime minister and their representatives to the Knesset. We should take into consideration the two sides of the race, when we judge the elections.

While the elected Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu succeeded in getting slightly more than 50 percent of the votes, Likud only won 31 seats in the Knesset. The Labor Party won 34 seats, that's three more seats than Likud's. This balance the scale between the two parties, and toppled Likud plans of achieving a dramatic change in the Knesset. It really shows that Israelis voted in favor of the Labor policies.

These results indicate that, neither Likud nor Netanyahu, nor Labor completely lost.

It shows Israeli society is in disarray. Netanyahu is confused. Labor will be a stubborn antagonist to Likud, and will foil its intentions.

However, one can not judge Netanyahu before three months. Any views before that will be inaccurate.

During the election campaign, his position was clear. Wasn't it?

When Netanyahu was in opposition, he was like a single man, he can say anything. Now he is like a married man who has to handle the concerns of his family, and the problems of the whole Israeli people. Eventually, Netanyahu will be forced to be pragmatic.

Fifty percent of the influence on Netanyahu will come from the international community which supports the peace process in the Middle East. The other 50 percent is the Israeli society. Netanyahu must take into consideration Israeli interests which favor to the peace process.

Netanyahu is not alone. The extremist religious parties got 22 seats in the Knesset. Do you think this is another obstacle in the path of peace?

I think that Likud faces a huge dilemma as far as these extremist parties are concerned. They achieved the 22 seats at the expense of both Likud and Labor. This is one of the negative results of the election results. I think Netanyahu will be forced to compromise with these parties.

If Likud and these parties form a coalition, it means that Likud will adhere to the policies of those extremists.

This is going on at the time the Palestinian National Authority has not submitted to its opposition.

I think Netanyahu is at a crossroads. I think he should enter a national unity coalition with the Labor Party. The alternative to this is the extremist parties, which means the abrogation of the peace process and the return to violence in the area between the Palestinian and the Israelis. Without the peace process Israel will be internationally isolated, as Israel is an artificial entity based on donations.

If Likud wants to act in the interest of its own people, it must not freeze the peace process. It must sit with us and negotiate on the rest of issues of the Oslo I and II, the final stage of the negotiations.

Likud is asked not to adopt what Yitzhak Shamir said during the Madrid peace conference, when he said "I will force the negotiations to go on for the next 10 years."

Many believe that Likud and Labor are two faces of the same coin. Do you agree with that?

It is a rhetorical expression rather than a political one. Every one has his own strategy and methods. However, they are both Israeli parties, they base their strategies to serving Israel. The agree on this goal, but defer on the ways.

But still, you will face a tough negotiator on the final status talks. How are you going to deal with the Israelis?

We have 70 percent of Gaza Strip and we have the main seven cities of the West Bank. Even if the Israelis did not withdraw from Hebron our people are there. It is the people who are important. Of course, we could not have succeeded in these achievements without the wise leadership of the Palestinians. People are now starting to realize the wisdom behind entering the gate of Oslo, even the Palestinian opposition, who stormed us in the past, are now starting to understand our position.

Despite the outcome of the Israeli elections, we are on our land, we struggle against settlements from our land, and there we struggle for Jerusalem. It is a more realistic option than to struggle from outside.

The PNA stopped its talks with Hamas after the wave of its suicide operations in Israel. And it launched an arrest campaign against Hamas activists. Is there any improvements in relations between the PNA and Hamas?

No state in the world is led by two persons or two authorities. And no state can accept to accommodate an armed authority and an armed militia at that.

So, Hamas should have not have opposed us but should have united against the enemy. Israeli stubbornness towards Lebanon, and the Qana massacre, had a clear message. It was clear that the Israeli hold on the Lebanese lands, and the Israeli proposals about water is



Salim Al Zanoun

more dangerous.

In addition to the final status negotiations we are facing, we feel it is the right time to coordinate with Arab countries, like we did during Madrid.

The Palestinian side sees achievements on the ground, and maintain that it is unhealthy for differences to continue.

Do you feel that the agreement with Syria will lead to decrease in opposition to the PNA?

During the last meeting of the PNC we have maintained the seats of the Popular Front for the Liberation Front, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Saika. The PNC elected their representatives to the Executive Committee of the PLO. However the Damascus 10 did not adopt a unified stand against the issue of the national charter (repeal of the clauses which call for the destruction of the state of Israel). While the first two groups rejected the repeal they refused to contest the legitimacy of the PNC.

Has become a political party in the Palestinian homeland, just like the rest of the parties.

Hamas failed to accommodate itself with the new situation, till confrontation happened. But the wisdom of some people in both parties, the PNA and Hamas, avoided any a civil war, because they raised their voices saying, whatever happened should not lead to a Palestinian-Palestinian armed conflict.

I do appreciate the position of Hamas leaders as they adhere not to use arms against the Palestinian police, despite their claim of arrests and repression. Also the PNA refused Rabin's calls to eliminate Hamas.

The difference between its leaders outside Palestine, in Jordan, Iran and Syria, who want to continue the armed struggle against Israel, and those inside who want to stop these operations, created divisions in Hamas. The leaders inside do not accept the decision making from the outside, as they feel that the outside leadership is pressing them to escalate with the PNA. It is the people who are suffering in the end as a result of the Israeli closure of West Bank and Gaza.

After this, improvements in relations between Hamas and the PNA started, and contacts began with Hamas leaders. Recently, the PNA eased its measures against Hamas.

You held talks with Syrian officials and President Hafiz Al Assad during the last session of the Arab Parliamentary Union in Damascus. How do you view your talks in Syria?

After this last visit, I feel that progress in the Syrian-Palestinian relations is making headway. Later a delegation representing the executive committee of the PLO held talks with Syrian officials. Also I did not feel any opposition to a possible visit for President Arafat.

We are accustomed to be united against the enemy. Israeli stubbornness towards Lebanon, and the Qana massacre, had a clear message. It was clear that the Israeli hold on the Lebanese lands, and the Israeli proposals about water is

It's decision time for Netanyahu

Continued from page 2

ing support of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories and for his hard-line role in the 1982 war in Lebanon—and Rafael Eitan, whose right-wing Tsomet Party merged with Likud this year and who is known for comparing Palestinians to cockroaches.

"The key question is whether Netanyahu turns now to his pragmatists or his ideologues," said David Kimche, a former director-general of Israeli Foreign Ministry who is now the president of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations. "The ideologues want a 'greater Israel' and massive Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories. They include Sharon and Eitan. The pragmatists want peace—a better, more secure peace than what we were getting, perhaps—but a real peace, which is totally contrary to a massive settlement policy."

For Netanyahu, it's a dilemma. By many accounts, he owes his win to Sharon, who put together a deal for him to join forces with two potential rivals, Eitan and Geshet Party leader David Levy.

Sharon may be rewarded with the defense portfolio, most powerful in the government, or the finance portfolio, which controls the treasury's pursestrings. Either way, Sharon would be able to pursue his decades-long strategy of creating and bolstering Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories. If it's not Sharon, it could be Eitan or former Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai.

Alternatively, Netanyahu might shunt them aside, giving Sharon a less significant ministry, like commerce or agriculture, while giving the defense post to a moderate pragmatist such as Dan Meridor, who served as justice minister under the last Likud government. Kimche says he has no doubt that the peace process could move forward under Meridor—but not under Sharon.

The only cabinet post that seems settled so far is that of foreign minister, which apparently will go to Levy, the potential Netanyahu rival who at the last minute helped him win. Levy is a Moroccan-born moderate whose appointment bodes relatively well for the peace process, Kimche said.

Some outsiders, like Shlomo Avineri, a professor of political science at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, argue that the difference between the far-right Likudniks and the centrists is only a matter of nuance.

Two advisers who are expected to set the tone in the years ahead are Dore Gold, a Connecticut-born professor—conservative but apparently not inflexible, who crafted Netanyahu's campaign peace policy—and Moshe Arens, a former ambassador to the United States.

In the negotiations with the small political parties it is not yet clear what will emerge. The permutations are endless. Most likely, Netanyahu will wind up with a coalition of religious parties and his own Likud Party, the Russian immigrant party and several others.

But there is also the slim possibility that he will drop the small parties in favor of a "national unity" government in which he would share a measure of power with the Labor Party of Shimon Peres, whom he defeated last week.

Under such a scenario, Labor would be the weaker partner but would still have significant power, as it did in 1988, when Peres and Likud's Yitzhak Shamir joined forces.



Netanyahu

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Our Say...

Time to create momentum

WEDNESDAY'S TRILATERAL summit in Aqaba is a sane move in a shifting political arena where everything was turned upside down. His Majesty King Hussein, Egypt's President Mubarak and Palestine's leader Yasser Arafat cannot afford to miss an opportunity to build a solid front to take on the ominous changes that resulted from last week's Israeli elections.

No matter how much the three leaders have tried to soften up the effect of the shock of losing Israel's Labor-led government as their peace partner, it is now a fact of life that under Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government the Middle East peace process will be in for a rough ride.

The main victim of the political earthquake that shook Israel will be Mr Arafat, who had put all his cards on the table in the hope that a victorious Shimon Peres will muster enough confidence to continue rapprochement with the Palestinians. But with Mr Netanyahu assuming the reins from now on, the Palestinians know that the final status negotiations will drag on aimlessly, while the credibility of the fragile Palestine National Authority will dwindle as time passes.

But Mr Arafat may take comfort in the fact that he will not be the only loser if the five-year-old peace process suffers from cardiac arrest. Israel's old and new peace partners, namely Egypt and Jordan, will come under tremendous pressure at home to revise their policies vis-a-vis Israel and slow down, if not terminate, the normalization process. Israel stands to waste a rare opportunity to build bridges of cooperation with the Arab world from Oman and Qatar in the east to Tunisia and Morocco in the west.

Although the right wingers in Israel will not shed tears over the loss of a unique chance to complete the circle of peace by bringing in Syria and Lebanon, the fact of the matter is that the Jewish state will not be immune from the repercussions of pulling the region into a quagmire of uncertainty. Such a debacle will further divide the Israelis, while singling out Israel as the only party to blame for the failure of the peace process.

Having said that, the three leaders, at their meetings in Cairo and Aqaba, appeared to have all the right answers. They were less abashed about stressing the need for a more unified Arab stand and they were less apologetic in calling for a collective effort to face the new possibilities that loom in the horizon. But talk is not enough. With intensified movements to negotiate the possibility of holding a pan-Arab summit, the timing could not be more opportune.

With the Egyptian-Syrian summit in Cairo earlier in the week, the trilateral Aqaba meeting and the Egyptian-Saudi high level encounter over the weekend, hopes are high that the Arabs will make an important transition from reacting to Israeli politics to building their own momentum and force.

The United States has high stakes in the region and it is because of this that it must now review its next step if Israel's choice of prime minister and deputies proves to be a choice against peace. The next weeks will prove crucial to all parties in the peace process. That's why the Arabs must make their next move carefully. ■

● British Prime Minister John Major shake hands with Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat outside No. 10 Downing Street in London.



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Netanyahu

In search of the pragmatist

By Marwan Asmar

THE OUTCOME of last week's Israeli election has come as a political bombshell for Jordan. The victory of the hardline Likud leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, is being seen by many as a lethal blow to the peace process. Writers, political analysts and newspaper columnists are almost unanimous in their prediction that Netanyahu's era will signal a return to the bleak years of Israeli radicalism, extremism and anti-Arab sentiments.

There is an ominous feeling that Netanyahu, backed by the far right, will reneged on agreements struck with the Palestinians, pursuing at best limited autonomy talks with the PNA. If this is to happen, and it appears likely that it will, then Arafat will find himself in the unenviable position of facing a fresh resurgence of Palestinian extremism and opposition to his reconciliatory policies even among his moderate supporters.

Yet Netanyahu does not operate in a political vacuum. His electioneering slogans must be seen as different from the political realities that he operates in. While he is portrayed as a hardliner, there are those, inside and outside Israel, who see him as a pragmatist politician, one who will have to take into account the changing political realities in the Middle East and elsewhere.

While it is true that the elections proved that the Israelis are split down the middle on the issue of the peace process, Netanyahu cannot afford to alienate half of Israel's electorate and compromise Israel's "special" relations with the United States.

The fate of the peace process is no longer an issue between Arabs and Israelis but one that has a definite international dimension. The treaties and agreements that have been signed in Oslo, Taba and Washington come with international guarantees and are binding to both the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The Palestinian leadership is no longer stuck hundreds of miles away, but is right in Israel's backyard. It has made precious and dangerous gambles to walk that extra mile and it would be destructive to all parties concerned if this leadership was to be weakened or destroyed.

It is against these political backdrops that Netanyahu must operate. A Likud-led government, no matter how hawkish its official party line is, will eventually adapt to this changing climate. Certainly, the new prime minister of Israel will have more than enough on his plate. We are somehow reassured that following his election victory, Netanyahu immediately phoned King Hussein to reassure him of his wish to con-

tinue the peace process. After that, he spoke with Mahmoud Abbas, the number two man in the PLO.

No matter how grim the political future may look now, Netanyahu should be given the benefit of the doubt, at least for the time being. While he is likely to be contemplating and assessing his next political moves and the sobering situation that his election has created, while he won by a fraction, the Israeli political vision has been cracked. With the help of the new right-wing political parties, he is likely to have a majority government. However, it will likely be branded as the most right-wing Israeli government in history with a band of nationalists and religious extremists demanding their pound of flesh, people who are against anything that smells of Palestinian nationalism.

Netanyahu would inevitably find himself with the cut throats and handits. We are not only talking about Ariel Sharon, but Raphael Eitan and the rest of the generals of Lebanon.

In such a situation, can Netanyahu, the pragmatist, be allowed to operate at his own free will? Being a radical is one thing, but the mark of a politician is his brinkmanship and the ability to maneuver in a quagmire of political aspirations and perceptions. What is feared is that this charismatic but inexperienced politician would be sucked into a den that is dominated by a pack of wolves, whose vision of life today is modeled on the ancient annals of history.

What Netanyahu would

come to understand sooner or later is that Israel cannot derail the peace process without feeling the loss itself. Statistics show that it is the prime beneficiary of the peace process with billions of dollars pouring in from international companies hoping to set permanent base in Israeli science parks. Can Israel afford to turn these important economic gains away, particularly at a time when the United States has demonstrated time and again that it is no longer willing to finance proxy allies?

The next few months, however, are likely to be filled with trepidation. For one thing the American elections are coming up in October, and American policy towards the area in the next few months is likely to be sterile. This might be what "Bibi" wants, a few months would give him extra time to show his macho image, that is before he is ready to sit down again and talk real politics. ■

To Bi or not to Bi Bi

THE DEPARTURE of Shimon Peres from Israeli frontline politics, ends an era that has witnessed all the major conflicts with the Arab world.

The leadership of a pluralist country usually reflects the mood of the electorate of that society. And in that respect, Mr Bi Bi Netanyahu's election victory is symptomatic of the current affairs of Israel. The close result of the elections clearly indicates the extent to which Israel is divided.

We in the Arab world have always thought that the presence of a threatening external enemy, has been a major factor of uniting the Arab world. But the last two Gulf wars have shown that, even an external enemy is not a sufficient factor to unite us.

The same, it seems is applicable to Israel. In this case, pluralism is not a sufficient factor for its political cohesion. It is not clear that Israel is divided on, but rather the fundamentals of peace. In as much as we, in Jordan, have to work hard for peace, Mr Netanyahu's government will have to exert itself and convince the Israeli society of the necessity of peace. The opposition in the Knesset cannot be underestimated, nor the partner ideologues in the Bi Bi cabinet can be ignored. It will not be easy for him to keep the opposition at bay, and his coalition partners will not give him a moment of respite. The balancing act of Bi Bi is most crucial for Israel's stability and to all its neighbors.

Undoubtedly, Bi Bi is handicapped from the start, with an already divided Israel, as half of the population has opted for Mr Peres, and with partners whom still see him as the man in opposition rather than the prime minister. The question of peace in the region will continue to dominate the outlook of Israel.

It is clear that it has crossed the point of no return in signing peace with Jordan and the PNA, but the real challenge will be to sustain and build on the achievements of peace. Jordan has made its position clear, and fully realizes that peace has been signed with the state of Israel and it is not the monopoly of one Israeli political party, or another. It has offered its continued support to the PNA, and will do its utmost to help the materialization of the Palestinian aspirations for an independent homeland.

By having a transparent foreign policy, Jordan is assuring Israel of its clear peace commitment, and reassuring our Palestinian brothers of supporting their independent political decisions. As for Syria and Lebanon, Jordan has often warned of the series of missed opportunities, and reasonable solutions to intricate regional problems. However, most of those warnings have gone unheeded and now we have to await for the squaring of protagonists against each other in the next round of futility, waste, and tension.

Whether the Israeli electorate have become hawkish, or dovish, is not the issue. The fact remains that there is a whole generation of people on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide who are eager to get on with their lives, and have every right to live in security and stability, and have a lifespan of more than a few, teen, years. It is clear from the Israeli election results, that adventures such as the recent attack on Lebanon, and the death of countless innocent civilians are not an acceptable norm anymore, as much as the death of innocent civilians by terrorist attacks is not acceptable either, otherwise Mr Peres would have been the premier now. So, for peace to be "Bi" or not "Bi Bi" can only be told in the near future. ■

A look into history

Ottoman Palestine revisited

By stressing the economic enterprises that underpinned the daily lives of the population of Jabal Nablus in the 18th and 19th centuries, Doumani positions his analysis within the Marxist tradition—without, however, falling prey to fixed dogmas or rhetoric.

Rediscovering Palestine, Merchants and Peasants in Jabal Nablus, by Beshara Doumani, University of California Press, 1995, pp340.

Reviewed by Sally Bland

IN REDISCOVERING Palestine, Beshara Doumani takes us back to a time and place where olive oil soap was money, and the wells for storing the oil served as banks. Doumani's book is a social history, organized around the products that made Nablus the trade and manufacturing hub of Palestine during the period of Ottoman rule. Accordingly, we find

Book Review

chapters with unusual and intriguing titles like: Cotton, Textiles, and the Politics of Trade; Political Economy of Olive Oil; and Soap, Class and State.

By stressing the economic enterprises that underpinned the daily lives of the population of Jabal Nablus in the 18th and 19th centuries, Doumani positions his analysis within the Marxist tradition—without, however, falling prey to fixed dogmas or rhetoric. His concrete, scholarly approach, is full of original research based on local court records and private papers of prominent Nabulsi families not previously made accessible to the public.

Rediscovering Palestine chronicles the major events of the time, such as Ottoman military campaigns and the Egyptian occupation. It examines the connections between Nablus and other regional centers like Nazareth, Haifa, Jaffa, Damascus and Cairo, thus giving an historical overview of Palestine as a whole. Relations to Jordan, especially the Balqa, are also accorded a place, since the best-outputs of the East Bank supplied the olive ashes used in soap making. Up to 2,800 camel loads of these ashes from the barilla plant might arrive in Nablus annually.

The picture Doumani paints of Ottoman Palestine distinguishes itself from other historical accounts in several ways. While many researchers have focused on either urban or rural areas, to the exclusion of the other, Doumani underscores the

interrelation between the city of Nablus and the surrounding villages. In his view, this is the key to understanding the development of the district of Jabal Nablus as a whole. It was the agricultural products of the hinterland—first, cotton and later olive oil and fame. Growing and marketing these products entailed interdependence between city and countryside, and paved the way for a growing class of middle peasants to enter inter-commerce, competing with, and in some cases eclipsing, urban-based ruling families.

Both Palestinian nationalists and Israeli historians—each from their own perspective—have assumed a sharp break in Palestine's history due to outside intervention. In contrast, Doumani calls for the "rediscovery of Ottoman Palestine by drawing attention to long-term processes and by highlighting the agency of the inhabitants in the molding of their own history" (p. xi). Rediscovering Palestine refutes Zionist depictions of a stagnant and unproductive land waiting to be colonized. It also questions romantic nationalist notions of 18th and 19th century Palestinian society as torpidly united and harmonious. According to Doumani, the "vaunted collective ethos" of Palestinian villages, "if it ever existed in the manner described by nationalists who would romanticize the Palestinian peasantry, was certainly vulnerable to the triple

blows of taxation, moneylending, and informal differentiation, all of which could not but be accompanied by painful and divisive political struggle" (p. 146).

It is commonly supposed that capitalism entered Palestine via the British and later the Zionist colonizers. However, Doumani argues that "many of the features associated with capitalist transformation had indigenous roots that were clearly evident before they were supposedly initiated by outside forces" (p. 236). In particular, "the aggressive expansion of merchant capital, spearheaded by moneylending, sped up the commoditization of land" (p. 150).

While moneylending impoverished vast portions of the peasantry, trapping them in a vicious cycle of debt, it also led to the accumulation of investment capital for expanding and concentrating the soap industry. While other areas of the Middle East, which depended primarily on textile production, lost out to British and French competition in the 19th century, Nablus continued to flourish since the soap industry had no serious rivals.

Though they may have appeared to outsiders as highly traditional, the predominant Nabulsi urban families and middle peasants possessed sufficient dynamism to adjust to shifting political and economic conditions. They even made moves toward creating a modern economy, Doumani re-

jects the notion that Western-inspired modernization was imposed on the Nabulsi elite by the Ottoman government's reforms. Rather the relation between the Ottoman government and the local elite was constantly subject to negotiation, with each side vying for its own interests. However, in Doumani's view, the two sides "spoke the same language... built on a shared set of assumptions, such as the primacy of market forces, and the sources of political legitimacy..." (p. 230).

There were, of course, serious disputes and instances of resistance to Ottoman conditions. Doumani recounts the two-year-long tax strike staged by Nablus soap manufacturers against the Ottoman authorities, noting that such disputes "laid the essential groundwork for the emergence of various forms of Palestinian nationalism in the early twentieth century" (p. 217).

Doumani is no stranger to Jabal Nablus. A teacher at Bir Zeit University, he obtained his PhD in history from Georgetown University in 1990, on the strength of a dissertation entitled, "Merchants, the State, and Socio-economic Change in Ottoman Palestine: The Nabulsi Region, 1800-1860." In the '80s, he published several sociopolitical essays about Saffit, southwest of Nablus, in the Middle East Report, the foremost US magazine on the area, on whose editorial board he serves. ■



Israel's elections outcome

King Hussein Israeli vote not against peace

By John Lancaster
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

AMMAN—His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan became the first Arab leader to publicly proclaim support for Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu, expressing confidence that the conservative Likud party leader would continue to push for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace.

In an interview last week, King Hussein said he had been "taken aback" by suggestions throughout the Arab world and elsewhere that Netanyahu's victory over the Labor Party government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres was "indicative of a move against peace."

On the contrary, he said, "I believe that the peace process has every possibility of continuing. It has a dynamic of its own. It is irreversible. ... I have every confidence and every faith that the future is bright in terms of the cause of peace."

King Hussein's upbeat tone was at odds with prevailing Arab views that Netanyahu's hard line—on security and other issues—does not bode well for Arab-Israeli relations. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has privately expressed dismay at the prospect of losing Peres as his negotiating partner, given Netanyahu's opposition to Palestinian statehood and declared intention to expand Jewish settlements.

Although King Hussein scrupulously avoided any involvement in the Israeli campaign, Jordanian officials privately expressed their preference for Peres, whose Labor Party government made peace with Jordan under Peres's predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin. Jordan pursued a "warm" peace with Israel that included agreements on trade, tourism, and water rights.

But in an interview last Saturday evening with four reporters on the outdoor patio of his residence, Nadwa Palace, Hussein said it would be a mistake to prejudge the prime minister-elect on the basis of statements made in the heat of a political campaign. "Let's hope that this is the past and we're looking at the future," he said. "I think we'd better all give him a chance to put his house in order and assume his responsibilities."

Dressed casually in a short-sleeved shirt, and gray slacks, the King rejected suggestions that the election had been a referendum on the peace process. The King said he is convinced that Israelis still support the search for a comprehensive settlement based on territorial compromise.

King Hussein spoke with Netanyahu on Friday, when the Likud leader telephoned after the election results became final. "He wanted me to be among the first he contacted," King Hussein said. "I was very touched by that. ... He assured me that he is committed to the cause of peace."

Jordan is in a sensitive position because of Jordan's decision to conclude a separate peace agreement with Israel before a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement. ■

Netanyahu strikes conciliatory note in unity speech

Ahmad Tibi, an Arab citizen of Israel and advisor to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, called the speech disappointing because Netanyahu never mentioned either Arafat or the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israel's partner in the peace process.

By Rebecca Trounson and
Marjorie Miller
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu, in a victory speech aimed at healing wounds laid bare by a bitter election campaign, vowed last Sunday to try to unify his divided nation and forge a "true, secure peace" with the Arab world.

Netanyahu, who defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres by the slimmest of margins last week, sounded notes of conciliation and moderation throughout the speech, his first public comments since his victory was confirmed last Friday.

Before hundreds of wildly cheering supporters in Jerusalem's Binyanei Haoma Convention Center, the 46-year-old leader of the right-wing Likud Party said his first priority will be to "heal the breach" between Israelis divided along political and religious lines.

"Peace begins at home," he said, adding that those efforts should be followed by further progress in peace negotiations with the Palestinians and neighboring Arab states.

Although the speech contained few specifics, it did provide a glimpse of the directions Netanyahu's government is likely to take. In addition to indicating his desire to continue along a path toward

peace, he stressed the significance of Israel's close relationship with the United States and vowed to strive for a freer economy and a greater flow of immigrants.

Political analysts said the Likud leader's generally conciliatory tone seemed aimed at easing fears his election has sparked at home and abroad that he would scuttle the Middle East peace process.

Netanyahu has 45 days from the election to form a coalition and take power. His aides have said he expects to present his new Cabinet to the Knesset, or parliament, for approval by 17 June.

In his speech, Netanyahu also reached out to Peres, the 73-year-old Labor Party leader who lost the election by less than 1 percentage point. He praised his rival's contributions to Israel over a half-century political career.

The raucous crowd responded with cheers, but Netanyahu admonished them, raising his hand and repeating his praise. "The campaign is behind us, and we are now in a different era, the era of unity across the nation," he said.

The acknowledgment of



The victor V. the vanquished

Peres, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, was but one of many "American-style" touches by the man soon to become Israel's first media-savvy leader, Netanyahu, who spent much of his youth in the

United States, garnered considerable attention during the campaign, for his easy speaking ability on television and for his tendency to be accompanied on campaign stops by his wife and children. Both were rare in

Israeli politics.

Underscoring that Israel will have a new kind of leader, Netanyahu's wife, Sara, not only attended her husband's speech last Sunday but was introduced by him—and greeted in deafeningly friendly fashion by the audience.

Dotted among the standing-room-only crowd were representatives of the diverse groups whose votes brought Netanyahu to power: ultra-Orthodox Jews in their traditional long coats and black hats, religious Jews in skullcaps, Bedouin Arabs in flowing headaddresses and youthful "Likudniks" in T-shirts and jeans.

In the speech, Netanyahu said he extends his hand to all Arab leaders and to the Palestinians, and he called on them to join Israel in a "circle of peace" to work for a permanent solution to the conflicts that have torn the region.

"We intend to advance the process of dialogue with all our neighbors to achieve a stable peace, a real peace, a peace with security," he said, echoing a frequent campaign theme.

Ahmad Tibi, an Arab citizen of Israel and advisor to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, called the speech disappointing because Netanyahu never mentioned either Arafat or the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israel's partner in the peace process.

"This was intentional," Tibi

said. "He directed his speech to the Palestinian people and he is trying to exclude the Palestinian leadership. Mr. Netanyahu will soon know that without the (PLO) and Mr. Arafat, there is no peace in the area."

Netanyahu has opposed the land-for-peace concessions that formed the basis of the peace talks with the Palestinians. He also said before the election that he would never give up the Golan Heights, the return of which Syria views as a precondition for any negotiations.

Netanyahu is expected to have to deal quickly with the difficult issue of Hebron, the last West Bank city still under the control of the Israeli army. A statement issued by the Peres administration said the issue of Hebron, where a few hundred Jews live among 100,000 Arabs, will be left to the new government. But, according to Israel Radio, it noted that Israel has made an international commitment to hand over all West Bank cities to Palestinian self-rule.

But the government did move Sunday to ease a three-month closure of the territories that has kept Palestinian workers from reaching jobs in Israel. Officials said 11,000 Palestinians were allowed to return to work after restrictions imposed after the bombings were lifted. ■

Bibi owes election victory to religious Jews

By John Daniszewski
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

BEIT EL, Israel—One reason why Benjamin Netanyahu confounded the pollsters and squeaked to victory in Israel's hotly contested presidential election last week might be found in the studios of pirate radio station Arutz 7 in this hilltop Jewish settlement.

On election day, this religious station lined up 2,000 volunteers with cars to taxi people to the polls, and given the philosophy of fervent Zionism and nationalism espoused by the station and its listeners, it is fairly safe to assume that most of their passengers cast votes for the leader of the right-wing Likud Party.

Beit El, a settlement north of Jerusalem peopled by observant Jews who believe that the Land of Israel has been divinely bestowed upon them, epitomizes a sector of Israeli society that proved to be Netanyahu's secret weapon in his campaign against Prime Minister Shimon Peres of the Labor Party: the 25 percent or so of Israelis who can be classified as religious.

Especially in the closing days of the campaign, religious Jews provided much of the energy and the momentum for the Netanyahu victory.

Spending from their own pockets, religious Jews traveled door-to-door across the country seeking votes for Netanyahu. They woke up early to seize strategic street corners and paper them with banners, posters and leaflets for "Bibi," as Netanyahu is known.

And on the decisive day itself, they voted with near-unanimity in their extended families in favor of Netanyahu.

Last-minute endorsements from leading rabbis such as 106-year-old Yitzhak Kaduri left no doubt about whom the observant Jew should support as a religious duty.

"They have a sort of discipline," said Daniel Sperber, a Talmud professor at Bar Ilan University, speaking of the ultra-Orthodox Jews known as the "haredim," or "fearful of God."

"When the rabbi told them to vote for Netanyahu, there was no question that within a few hours you could marshal tens of thousands of people to vote as told," he said.

In the words of former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, a Likud Party elder: "If there was one thing which decided these elections, it was the mobilization of this movement."

For religious Jews, the election became part of their larger struggle for the soul of Israel—whether the country is to be a normal secular democracy but with a large Jewish population, or whether it is to be a Jewish state governed to a significant degree by Judaic values and laws.

"They decided that the future of the country was at stake," said Yedidya Atlas, a senior correspondent for Arutz 7, whose broadcasts are transmitted from a ship in the Mediterranean because it cannot get a license from the Israeli government.

"We were forced to make a clear choice on whether this was going to be the Jewish state of Israel that its founders envi-

sioned—or some sort of binational or secular state."

Although the final margin looked slim—Netanyahu winning by about 30,000 votes, or less than 1 percent of the ballots—among Jewish voters the victory for Netanyahu was unambiguous: 55.5 percent opted for Netanyahu compared to 44.5 percent for Peres.

Netanyahu was not outwardly pious until he began the campaign to become prime minister, but in his televised blessing with Peres he twice invoked God's blessing—and on the day before the vote, he prayed at the Western Wall, Judaism's most sacred site. He also returned there to pray last Friday shortly after his victory was confirmed: a religious supporter blew a ram's horn in triumph.

Although most commentators analyzing the election have focused on security issues—saying that Peres's supporters voted their hopes for the peace process rather than their fears of terrorism, and Netanyahu's backers just the opposite—members of the religious community say that traditional values and the country's "Jewish identity" were uppermost in their minds.

"The real debate here is not a political debate. The debate here is the outcome of a crisis about values," said Rabbi Omer Fournmansk, who said he fears that changes in the country are undermining the country's morality. The youth in public school do not get enough exposure to the Torah, he said, and the mass media saturate them with messages of violence, drugs and other aspects of modern decadence.

He accused Israeli state radio and television of being "almost completely 'anti' in its approach to religion" in recent years, even though religious and traditionally minded Jews make up to one-third of the population.

To religious voters, Labor's willingness to compromise with the Palestinians in the peace negotiations, along with its candid appeals to Israel's Arab minority to help keep it in office, was a scandal—a fundamental betrayal of the reason for a Jewish state.

The feeling was that the government had gone overboard on equality, "so much so that they began de-Judaizing Judaism and strengthening Arabism," Sperber said. Some feared that Israel would eventually lose its Jewish character altogether.

"If this was just another democracy, I'd go back to America," Beit El resident Shelly Nakonechny, who immigrated to Israel 25 years ago, said in a typical comment. "I came to live in a Jewish state."

Another factor driving the religious vote was resentment of the government's perceived bias against observant Jews. Some felt they were being regarded as primitive relics of a medieval era and were being blamed by the rest of society for last year's assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by religious law student Yigal Amir. Religious Jews felt "demonized," Sperber



Democracy—Israeli style

said. "There was a feeling of a stigma to speaking openly about what they believed—they felt almost a shadow of Bolshevism invading their lives."

Menachem Friedman, a sociologist, recently visited the haredim community of Bnei Brak and was struck by the depth of anger he found there toward Labor and Meretz, a liberal, secularist party that is Labor's coalition partner and frequently jousts with religious leaders.

"They were saying the previous government humiliated them every day for the past four years, that it had become too much for them," Friedman said. "They wanted to take revenge—meaning 'Down with Peres' and especially 'Down with Meretz.'"

After the Netanyahu victory, and significant gains by a trio of religious parties that will control 20 percent of the new Knesset, or parliament, a feeling of relief and jubilation surged through the religious community—with a few notes of triumphalism.

The priorities of religious Jews include closing down certain streets and halting bus service on the Sabbath, increasing government subsidies for housing for large Orthodox families, putting more religious content into the public school curriculum and, among the more nationalistic parts of the community, retaining and expanding settlements in the West Bank, seen as the heart of the God-given Israel of the Torah. ■

Likud's victory puts Arafat in an even tighter spot

By Nicholas Goldberg
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

GAZA CITY—On the night of the Israeli elections, Yasser Arafat sat in his office overlooking the Mediterranean until well past dawn, staring in horror at the television, agitated, uncomprehending, disbelieving.

For the Palestinian leader, the 2 a.m. turn of events—when Benjamin Netanyahu overtook Prime Minister Shimon Peres and started down the road to victory—was a disaster for which he simply was not prepared.

After all, despite its promises to the contrary, a Netanyahu government seemed likely to leave the peace process badly crippled, if not dead. A longtime enemy of Arafat, Netanyahu had prom-

ised voters he would halt talks on Jerusalem, reinstate Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories and block creation of a Palestinian state, thereby rejecting the bedrock demands of the Palestinians. Under Netanyahu, it appeared, time would be turned back to before the signing of the peace accords in 1993.

"Arafat didn't sleep at all that night; he was in his office with his top staff, watching," said a close adviser who spoke to him afterward. "The next day, he couldn't believe it. He was devastated. He just couldn't believe it had happened."

Arafat's reaction was not much different from his constituents. Across the dusty Gaza Strip and throughout the barren hills of the West Bank, Palestinians, many of

whom had taken a long time to come around to supporting the peace process, responded to the elections with fear. Even those who professed to see little difference between the two Israeli candidates acknowledged that they were now even less likely to see an end to the crippling border closure, or to ever realize their dream of statehood, which had seemed almost within their grasp.

But Arafat's concerns were tinged with something else: an element of self-preservation and a realization that his power and future are tied to the success of the peace process. Indeed, in interviews since the election, Palestinians have made clear that it is not only the Israelis whom they hold responsible for their diminishing prospects, but Arafat, too. He

raised their hopes, they say, and then he capitulated on issue after issue—border closing, Israel's recent military campaign against Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon—without getting anything in return. Arafat has installed a repressive, corrupt regime in Gaza, they say, and now he has failed to come through with peace.

"If Arafat doesn't find a solution, there's going to be a new intifada, worse than before," said Iyad Abdul Razik, a 23-year-old unemployed Gaza resident from the Beach refugee camp, referring to the popular uprising that began in 1988 against the Israeli occupation. Razik has been unable to travel to his job in Israel since the closure was imposed three months ago after the first of four suicide

bombings. "If the Israelis become more intransigent, it is not our government that will react, it is the Palestinian people as a whole."

His friend, Mohammed Zagra, 22, echoed: "If there is no peace, there will be an explosion."

Talk of a new intifada is everywhere: Among US diplomats, UN employees, Palestinian college professors, politicians and refugees.

"The level of frustration is very high here," said Ziad Abu Amr, a professor of political science at Bir Zeit University in Ramallah and a member of the newly elected Palestinian legislative council. "I worry about what will happen."

Terje Larsen, the UN special coordinator for the Occupied Territories, said that if

the closure is not lifted and economic conditions improved, people will lose faith in the future and in the peace process, and the situation would become "really dangerous." Anger, he said, could undermine Arafat's authority, and could even be directed against the Palestinian Authority.

For Arafat, it's a time to be supremely cautious: his leadership is on the line. And in the past few days he has been just that. He did not respond to comments by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who is expected to be a Cabinet minister again under Netanyahu, when he called Arafat a terrorist. In fact, Arafat did not respond at all to Netanyahu's election, except to say through aides that he hoped the new government would press forward with the peace process and begin renewed negotiations quickly.

Arafat's goal in the weeks ahead is to walk a delicate line, keeping the peace process going with his tough new partners—without appearing to have sold out his people or to have abandoned their most cherished dreams. ■



World's most innovative city spotlighted at UN summit

By Robin Wright
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

CURITIBA, Brazil—At the start of the school year, Christiano Pereira Pinheiro, a winsome 7-year-old, traded eight pounds of recyclable garbage for a packet of new notebooks.

Each week, he and his two older brothers, the sons of a maid and a steelworker, exchange trash for two pounds of protein-rich beans or fresh fruit. At Easter, they get chocolate eggs and at Christmas a cake for the family.

Garbage is not the only thing recycled here. Old wooden utility poles are reused in office buildings, bridges and public squares. Retired buses become mobile classrooms for adult education. A gunpowder depot converts into a theater-in-the-round.

"Virtually everything has more than one use," said Mayor Rafael Greca De Macedo, whose airy office overlooking a park is made of old telephone poles and glass. "It's just a matter of figuring out how to reuse things and then teaching people how to do it."

Curitiba has done just that—and much more. As the world's mayors and urban planners assemble Monday in Istanbul, Turkey, for the start of a 10-day UN summit on mushrooming urban problems, this little-known city 200 miles southwest of Sao Paulo in southeast Brazil is being heralded as the place that has many of the solutions.

"It's the most innovative city in the world," said Wally N'Dow of Gambia, chairman of the Habitat II summit. Since

young maverick architects and engineers took over City Hall in the 1970s, Curitiba has tried new ways to tackle urban ills, including illiteracy, homelessness, transportation and government service shortcomings, unemployment, pollution and poverty.

Curitiba is still a Third World city, with at least 10 percent of its 1.6 million people living in slums of corrugated tin-and-wood shanties. And its innovations—from "trade villages" to school-bus written by the mayor—were made very gradually.

But the city now stands as a model for urban planners, and mayors from around the world have visited Curitiba to learn from its experiments.

The rush to the cities has been one of the great global trends of the 20th century. Forty years ago, 70 cities had more than 1 million people. Today there are more than 200, including 10 in Brazil. And in 15 years, the United Nations estimates, there will be 500, with 33 having populations of more than 10 million.

The 21st century will be the first urban century," N'Dow said, "with more than half the world's population living in cities. But whether in big countries such as the United States or small countries like mine, we are all woefully unprepared."

In an effort to share possible solutions, Habitat II has identified 227 innovative practices in cities from Bogota, Colombia, to Bangkok, Thailand, Jakarta, Indonesia, is cited for uniting the public and private sectors in a housing development project. Havana is mentioned for the way it has provided housing, roads, clean

water and electricity to the poor.

In the United States, Habitat's premier example is Chattanooga, Tenn., which in 1969 was the most polluted American city, rapidly losing people and jobs. Under the management of David Crockett, descendant of the frontiersman, Chattanooga has done an about-face, making major strides in such areas as pollution control, neighborhood revitalization and public education.

Elsewhere in Brazil, Sao Paulo, whose 18 million residents make it the world's third-largest metropolis, is a dirty, disorienting mega-city. Rampant crime plagues Rio de Janeiro, where up to a third of the 5.5 million residents live in shanties. Brasilia, the capital, is a sterile planned city of 1.8 million whose outdated 1960s architecture gives it an eerie feel.

The accomplishments of Curitiba have come despite limited means. For a city its size, its budget is modest: \$1 billion a year, the same as that of Lausanne, Switzerland, which has one-tenth the population.

But Curitiba is making the most of



what it has.

Its "garbage that is not garbage" program made it the world's recycling capital. More than 70 percent of its trash is recycled—compared to 10 percent in the United States. Paper recycling in Curitiba saves 1,200 trees a day, city planners estimate.

The program in turn helps the poor. The city last year exchanged almost 2 million pounds of food, 348,000 Easter

eggs and 26,000 Christmas cakes for recyclable trash. Hundreds of quilts for the needy were stuffed with crushed Styrofoam. Christiano was one of 25,000 poor children who received school supplies.

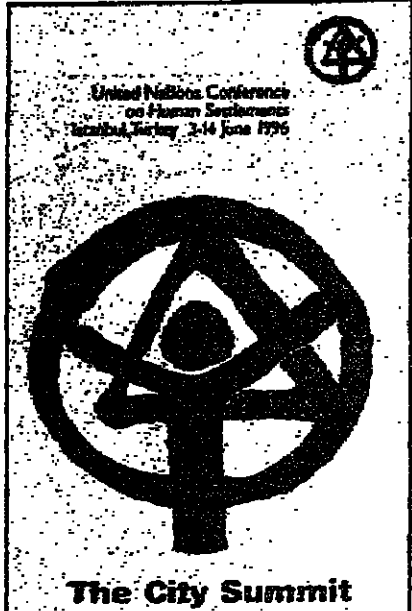
The program also keeps the town clean, cuts diseases spread by rat urine and avoids the persistent floods that used to occur when the townspeople threw their garbage into rivers.

Curitiba also is taking government to the people. "Citizenship Streets" are colorful covered avenues of government offices and shops where residents can pay utility bills, get a marriage license or file a police report. They can also get a haircut, buy groceries or work out. Shop rents pay most of the costs.

The streets also have 600-seat open theaters, night courts and classrooms that offer vocational training for \$1 a course. In one recent computer class, Marta Casavieira Penha, a 28-year-old teacher, said she enrolled because "the price is right. With my income, this is the only route to advancement."

The first Citizenship Street opened last year; six more are planned by early 1997. They reflect one of the keys to Curitiba's success: integration. Each Citizenship Street, for example, is linked to one of the city's seven transportation hubs.

The transport centers are near health facilities, of which Curitiba has the most per capita in Brazil—all open 24 hours a day. The clinics and environmental programs have cut infant mortality in half over the past decade; it is now only one-third of the national average of more than 50 deaths per 1,000 births.



The City Summit

Curitiba has not overlooked its schools. Christiano, a second-grader, uses one of the four-volume "Lessons from Curitiba" textbooks written by the mayor and local teachers. Numbers are taught using local flora and fauna. The poem in a reading lesson explains that emeralds are worth a lot and diamonds much more, but even more valuable is glass because it can be recycled again and again. Math problems probe how much of the local environment can be saved through various kinds of recycling.

"We're trying to create a whole new set of attitudes and a sense of involvement," Mayor Greca said. Students pay for their books in recyclable trash; each book itself is recycled to the next year's students.

In 1991, Curitiba built the Free University for the Environment—from old utility poles—next to a quarry converted into a lake. Short courses on how to make better use of the environment are tailored for homemakers, contractors and merchants. Taxi drivers have to take a course to get an operator's license. ■

Mexican believers denounce abbot for declaring revered Virgin mythical

By John Ward Anderson
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MEXICO CITY—When taxi driver Gerardo Becerra heard the breathless radio announcer urging listeners to stand by for an incredible story that would shock all of Mexico, he immediately thought there had been another political assassination.

Then came the report, and it was almost as stunning. The abbot of the Basilica of Guadalupe, Mexico's holiest shrine to the country's patron saint, the Virgin of Guadalupe, had declared that the story of the Virgin's appearance before an Indian peasant in 1531 was just that—a story, a myth, "a symbol," he said. It wasn't a historical event.

The backlash was immediate. The offending abbot, Msgr. Guillermo Schulenburg Prado, 80, was denounced by a chorus of Mexican bishops, who called for his resignation and a Vatican inquiry. Some suggested he was senile.

The faithful, who visit the shrine in Mexico City by the millions each year to seek favors from "the mother of all Mexicans," many crawling the last 100 yards on their knees, were not forgiving either.

"The only thing left for (Schulenburg) to say is, 'Good-bye,'" said Francisco Garcia, 73, who visited the basilica Tuesday.

"He's crazy," said Cesar Gomez, 25, one of the vendors who peddle religious paraphernalia—including Virgin key chains and Virgin beach towels—outside the church complex. "Who else would say something like that?"

The outraged reaction illustrates the unusually high esteem reserved for the dark-skinned Virgin of Guadalupe and the deep faith of Mexico's 85 million Roman Catholics, who make up about 90 percent of the country's population. The appearance of the brown-skinned Virgin to Indian peasant Juan Diego 465 years ago, and the Catholic Church's recognition of the event, played a critical role in the conversion of Mexican Indians to Christianity and in fusing the country's indigenous Mayan and Aztec cultures with the Euro-Christian culture imported by the Spanish conquistadors.

When the Rev. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla initiated Mexico's war for independence from Spain in 1810, he cried, "Long live the Virgin of Guadalupe and down with bad gov-

ernment!" Her picture became the rallying banner for the revolution. In a poll published this week in the newspaper *Reforma*, 78 percent of the Catholics surveyed said they had an image of the Virgin in their homes.

The United States has no equivalent social or cultural icon, even though the Vatican declared Our Lady of Guadalupe to be the patroness of both North and South America in 1945. But a pronouncement as shocking as the abbot's would require Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, for example, to declare that the authors of the Declaration of Independence never existed and had been concocted simply as a means of explaining the foundation of democracy in America.

Schulenburg, abbot of the basilica for 33 years, has denied questioning Juan Diego's existence and the appearance before him of the Virgin. In a statement released by his office on Monday, Schulenburg said the comments attributed to him were "absolutely false," adding: "It is a pity that there exist malevolent minds that provoke this type of confused campaign."

The controversy began after Schulenburg was quoted Sun-

day in the Italian magazine *30 Giorni* as having said that Juan Diego "is a symbol, not a reality." He was also quoted saying that the beatification of Juan Diego by Pope John Paul II in 1990 did not confirm the man's existence, but was done in recognition of the cult that had grown up around him. Beatification is a preliminary classification of a candidate for sainthood.

The story in *30 Giorni* was apparently based on an interview Schulenburg gave last year to a regional Mexican magazine called *Latras*, raising the question of why Mexican Church authorities are only now making an issue of it.

Church observers here said it is possible that Schulenburg, who drives a Mercedes and is not a favorite of Mexico City Archbishop Norberto Rivera, could be the target of internal church politics. One observer suggested that Schulenburg's opponents were doing "a hatchet job" on him because he favors splitting Mexico City's huge archdiocese into two parts, with his cathedral at the center of one part. Rivera opposes the division.

So revered is the Virgin of Guadalupe here that every school child knows the story of

her appearance to the humble Indian woodcutter as he was walking on a hillside north of Mexico City and of how she told him of her wish that a church be built in her honor on the site.

Juan Diego went to the local bishop and told him of the command, the story continues, but the bishop did not believe him. The Virgin appeared to Juan Diego again at the same site and ordered him to gather roses, wrap them in his cloak and take them to the bishop. Diego did so, and when he opened his cloak to present the flowers, witnesses saw instead that the cloak miraculously had been imprinted with a picture of the Virgin. The bishop recognized the miracle and ordered the construction of the first basilica.

Today, the cloak, bearing a distinct image of the Virgin, is suspended above the altar of a basilica that accommodates 20,000 worshippers, built in 1976 adjacent to the old structure. Below the cloak—which is exhibited in a display case that is monitored by elaborate security and humidity systems—four "moving sidewalks" circulate the faithful back and forth. ■

Boutros-Ghali opens HABITAT II

ISTANBUL, Turkey—I am pleased to inaugurate the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, HABITAT II.

Indeed, we have come, from every continent, representing major capitals, and provincial towns, megalopolis and small urban neighborhoods, to Istanbul, to the city par excellence.

The preparatory committee and the delegations of member states have worked long months to make this conference a success. There are still some disagreements, but this is a healthy sign of the importance of the issue of human settlements.

We should all be conscious today that the decisions taken here in Istanbul will be of relevance not only for the world of today, but for the world in which our children must live and prosper.

This vision of development was in sharp contrast to the understanding of development as a "zero-sum game," where the gains of one economy necessarily meant the loss of others. A cooperative vision of development stems from the basic premise that there can be no isolation, that, in a rapidly globalizing world, we all have a stake in the management of growth and development.

But your presence here today is far more than just the continuation of a pattern set with the Earth Summit in 1992. Each Conference has its specificity, its own qualities that distinguish it from all the others. In the case of HABITAT II, you have gone farther than other Conferences in recognizing the universality of the issue of human settlements.

Broad-based national committees have completed more than 120 national plans of action identifying national priorities for the sustainable development and growth of human settlements. Local authorities, on which the implementation of HABITAT II will depend, have joined non-governmental organi-

zations as full partners of this Conference of the United Nations. Even more, we shall have them private sector, as a dynamic engine of growth, represented in every aspect of HABITAT II.

At this Conference, therefore, delegates of Member States hold out their hand to the representatives of non-state actors. Together, state and non-state, you are all delegates of the peoples of this earth, and custodians for its future generations. Together, you will be successful in the construction of a new world. Together, you are driving force of development, and the hope of our children.

More importantly, the Best Practices demonstrate the capacity of human beings to rise to the challenge of difficult situations, to harness the resources and the inventiveness to repair and renew our societies.

The purpose of HABITAT II, then, is to respond to this common challenge. This is reflected in the themes of the Conference: sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and shelter for all. Without viable human settlements and cities and towns, our future prosperity is in doubt. With more than one billion people in the world around the world without secure and affordable housing, there can be no stable family life nor stable communities.

Our collective response will be the HABITAT AGENDA—a global plan of action that embodies our vision of human settlements for cities, towns and villages that are viable, safe, prosperous, healthy and equitable. This is our vision of the common future, this must be the Spirit of Istanbul. ■

This is an excerpted speech given by UN General Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the inaugural session of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements that opened in Istanbul on 3 June. It continues till 14 June.

Refugee art work portrays reality of life in war zones

By Wendy S. Ross

Washington—A group of Washington area artists, with the help of a private association that promotes in the United States the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is sponsoring a moving show of refugee art on display here through June 1.

The show, entitled "Reflective Images," features more than 50 works by artists from countries that have been torn by war. Among the works are 17 original etchings titled as a group "Sarajevo '92." The etchings were done by faculty members and graduate students at the Academy of Fine Arts at the University of Sarajevo the first summer that city was under siege from Serb militia forces.

"The artists represent all the major ethnic groups in Bosnia," said Aida Musanovic, one of the exhibitors. She escaped from Sarajevo in November 1993, and now lives in the United States.

"This show represents our individual and collective reaction to the horrors of war. It's very important that this idea arose in Sarajevo" with artists of different ethnic backgrounds working together, she said.

"We did it spontaneously. It was a way to stay sane in a situation when you didn't know if you would be killed in this minute or the next. We were outraged by this terrible aggression and we wanted our message to get out," she said.

A separate collection of 25 linocut black and white prints by Musanovic depicting life in Sarajevo during the war also is on display. They are illustrations for a book of fiction, *A Sarajevo Ghost Story*, by

American writer Stewart von Allmen, to be published soon.

Art "is an excellent way to transmit political reality and to get people personally involved," in countering aggression and intolerance and discrimination, Musanovic said. She emphasized that art's "overall message is one of hope, freedom and tolerance."

Also displayed are five watercolors on silk and rice paper by Nguyen Cao Nguyen, an artist who fled Vietnam in 1975. He is now an established Washington artist with his own gallery, but his work of idyllic traditional and abstract scenes evocative of Vietnam shows he has not forgotten his roots. Central to the show is a series of sculptures by little-known Maine artist Virginia Brun. For the past several years, working alone in her small studio, she has been sculpting in plaster a series of bas-reliefs that depict small, forlorn human forms huddled together in terror.

Brun said she first got the idea for this series on the world's refugees when she saw televised reports on Kurds being forced out of Iraq in 1990. "It just suddenly occurred to me," she said, "that I am just like them. I have all the comforts that they were used to.... And I think that's what got me thinking about it."

Last summer an art gallery in Rockland, near Brun's home, displayed the refugee

series and Amelia Rosenthal, a Washington artist who spends her summers in Maine, saw the show. She was so moved by Brun's work that she felt it should be shown more widely.

When Rosenthal returned home she called the United Nations for assistance. They put her in touch with the United States Association for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (USAR for UNHCR), a private non-profit association with 3,000 members nationwide that works to help publicize in the United States the plight of the millions of refugees worldwide forced to flee their homes due to ethnic strife, religious hatred or political persecution.

Rosenthal and USA for UNHCR began collaborating to bring together art work by refugees themselves—artists who had lived the horrors Brun's work depicted. "Everything just fell together. It was incredible, and had a spiritual dimension," said Dora Plavetic who is public awareness coordinator for USA for UNHCR. Plavetic said her office, "realiz-



ing that art is a very powerful tool" to make people aware of what goes on in conflict zones, had already been planning to do a show of refugee art. But the show in Washington would not have come together without the push from Rosenthal, she said.

An expanded version of the show, to include works by Cuban and Haitian artists, as well as by artists from other parts of Latin America, will be on display for a month—from 8 November until 7 December—at the South Florida Art Center in Miami Beach. ■

USIA

Data from study of gifted children may upset parents

By Mary Jo Kochakian
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

PSYCHOLOGIST ELLEN Winner knows intimately the children every parent would like to have—the gifted.

But her study of them and conclusions are likely to upset many parents whose children have been classified as such.

When parents let on to others, "my kid's gifted." It usually means the child has scored 125 or 130 on an IQ test, she says. These kids are bright, but only "moderately gifted," says Winner, a professor of psychology at Boston College and author of *Gifted Children: Myths and Realities* (Basic Books, \$28).

Typical enrichment programs for gifted children, she says, "are so minimal as to be practically useless." She argues that these limited resources go only to the extremely gifted, and that schools raise standards for all other children.

Winner defines as gifted children who have three atypical characteristics: They are precocious, beginning to master a domain—such as language, math, music, art or athletics—at an age way ahead of schedule. They march to their own drummer. They need minimum help or scaffolding from adults in order to master their domain, and much of the time they teach themselves—in fact, they often resist it. They have "a rage to master" their domain, showing an obsessive interest in it.

In these ways, Winner says, they are very different from average or bright kids who are motivated to work hard, or are pushed.

No one knows exactly how many children fit this category—estimates are somewhere between one in 10,000 children and one in a million, she says. "We do know that IQs of 180 are about one in a million," Winner says, and giftedness in art and music "are about as extreme."

Students who are moderately gifted receive the most attention and advocacy. In the United States, at least, no one really knows what to do with the extremely gifted. Their parents are often forced to make extreme choices, such as teaching them at home, or enrolling their prepubescent in college.

If Americans had higher standards for children, the moderately gifted wouldn't need enrichment programs, and average kids would perform better, Winner says. "Look at any Western European country, compared to what our children do," she says—it's not a matter of genetics.

The extremely gifted are "our human capital," Winner says. They have needs as great as retarded or special education students.

Winner identifies nine "myths" about children fitting her definition of gifted:

■ They have "a general intellectual power that allows them to be gifted 'across the board.'" (A combination of academic strengths and weaknesses is the rule, not the exception.)

■ Artistically and musically gifted children have exceptional IQs.

■ Children who show exceptional abilities in visual arts, music, dance or athletics are called "talented," not gifted. ("There is no justification for such a distinction," she writes.)

■ Giftedness is entirely inborn.

■ Giftedness is a matter of intensive training at an early age by parents and teachers.

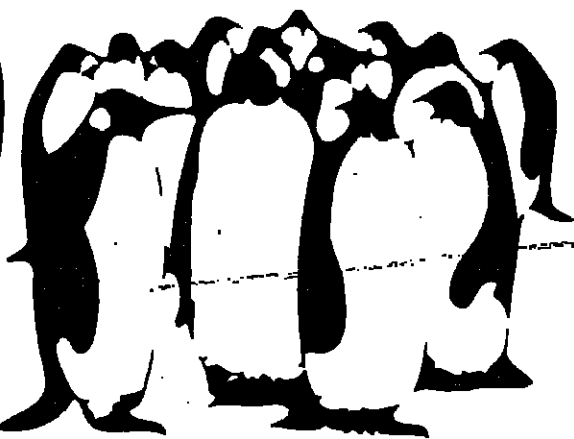
■ Gifted children are "made" by overzealous parents. (If a child is truly gifted, she writes, parents should be very involved.)

■ Gifted children are well-adjusted, popular and psychologically healthy. (Being so different from other kids, they are often socially isolated, and unhappy.)

■ All children are gifted.

■ Gifted children become eminent adults.

AROUND TOWN



Princess Rahma visits ICS, 11 years on

THE CHILDREN in Junior 3 were thrilled to receive HRH Princess Rahma, who came to visit them in class. The children were researching the history of the International Community School (ICS).

The Princess, having attended the ICS 11 years ago, told the children what the school was like when she attended it, who her teachers were, who her friends were and what she liked best about the ICS.

The children learnt that ICS has grown considerably, but in fact not much else has really changed. The Princess said that when the school moved to Khaldia, they thought it was out in the countryside! Amman has stretched too!

Princess Rahma then attended a special assembly when children of all ages demonstrated their gymnastic skills. The Princess sponsors gymnastic activities in the school, and she was very impressed with the show. She was in the gymnastics team when she attended the ICS.



Celtic quartet, very hot

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

Amman is hot this summer, with the Arab-Euro-Jazz festival coming, the British Week and the Japanese Week. The temperatures reached highest last Saturday and Sunday as the Battlefield Band performed at the Philadelphia hotel. Presented by the National Music Conservatory and the British Council, the Scottish group gave Jordanians and UK expatriates a taste of Celtic music.

The music is becoming more popular, especially after Ireland won the Eurovision song contest. Better described as Scottish and Irish folk, it is very close to old Country music of the American West.

The Battlefield Band combines old and new Celtic music, fusing traditional and folklore with modern Celtic (spelled *celtic*) music played on keyboards and digital percussion.

Celtic pieces are usually made up of more than one opus that are written separately and for different instruments. The band members which included Ian Macdonald and John McCusker changed their instruments frequently during the performances.

The Battlefield Band played with ingenuity, dexterity and spirit. The band was formed 26 years ago. The line-up has changed several times with new members bringing in new ideas. The result is a multi-talented group. The show's program describes them "angry, joyful, raucous, contemplative", and their music "accessible to all."

The two older members, Alan Reid (keyboards and vocals) and Alistair



John McCusker and Ian Macdonald (right)

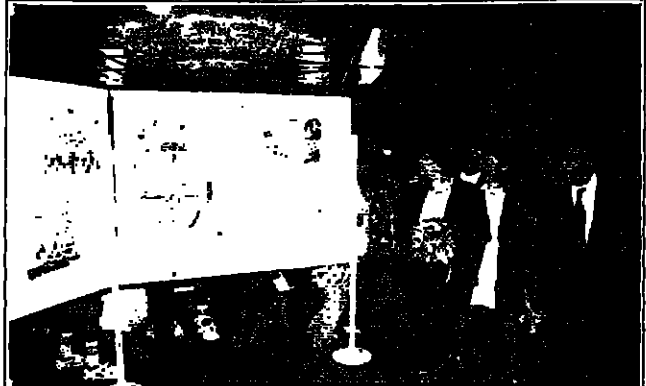
Russell (guitar and vocals), showed experience. Reid engineered a Celtic/Reggae fusion piece, which they played last. A longer piece, very energetic and hyper, the band performed it again as they returned to the stage because of the continuous beating on the table, by the audience. Russell sang a solo without instruments, a funny piece of vocalism

about an Irish dam worker in Scotland.

The band's youngest member John McCusker, only 23 years old, is a musical genius. An excellent fiddler and a super cittern (an egg-plant shaped guitar) player, he writes a lot of the music for the band. With a solo album, the young musician transformed his abilities from Irish/classical music to Celtic after seeing a Battlefield Band concert. He later became a leading member. Macdonald (bagpipes, flute, whistle and bodhran) is also excellent. His command of the bagpipes, which is more like an understanding between him and the instrument, was spiritual—even angelic. He also performed a solo on the bodhran (a pan drum) with dazzling empathy.

The NMC proved itself as the connoisseurs of world music. Their shows are varied and their reach is beyond the conventional. On Friday 7 June, the concert in cooperation with the German Embassy, the Goethe Institute and the Ministry of Tourism are presenting the First German Harp Ensemble (12 Harps, violin and cello) at the Umayyad Palace, Amman Citadel. It will perform pieces by Paganini, Tchaikovsky, Bach and John Lennon.

'Happy Childhood' at the Inter.Con



On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Inter-Continental Hotel and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of *Ad Dustour* daily newspaper, a children exhibition was opened in the Inter.Con last week. The exhibition which was under the patronage of HRH Princess Wijdan Ali was titled "Happy Childhood".

It included paintings from 150 children who came from different governorates of the Kingdom and whose ages ranged from 6 to 14. The main subject of the paintings revolved around child rights. These include freedom of expression, protection from torture and maltreatment and the enjoyment of a good living standard. Muhammad Said from Irbid, received the first award, Rima Hamasha from Al Hashmi Al Shamali, and Ghazaleh Arar from Al Baq'a, were the runners up.

Mr Waddah Abu Al Ghanam, sales manager of the Inter.Con, said this is not the first time the hotel encourages children's activities and it will not be the last. Talented children must receive full support from all private and public institutions, he added.

JTE receives award for outstanding service

The General Manager of Jordan's Technical Est. (JTE), Mr Khalil Al Khalili, received a shield from the US-based FBI, Burglary and Insurance Company. This award, given at the third annual International Distributor Conference held in Birmingham England, is in appreciation of JTE's outstanding service. The JTE is a distributor for the FBI, in Jordan.



First Leksell Gamma Knife in the Middle East

As the Amman Gamma Knife Center at Ibn Al Haytham hospital starts operations, the International Center for Medical Investments, Ibn Al Haytham Hospital, and the Swedish Medical Company Elekta Investment are holding a one-day medical seminar on Saturday, 8 June.

Professor Massimo Gerosa from the Verona Gamma Knife Center and Professor Titi Rahu and Physicist Dr Jurgen Amdt are giving lectures on the issue. Professor Rahn and Dr Amdt both will support the treatments at the Amman Gamma Knife Center which started on 2 June.

With the support of Elekta Investment, the Jordanian medical team has already received adequate training. The team, represented by Dr Mohamed Samaha and Dr Ibrahim Sbeih will talk about their experience during the seminar. More than 80 Gamma Knives are sold worldwide primarily to prestigious hospitals and university clinics in Europe, North America, Japan and China. The Amman center is the first of its kind in the Middle East. It not only gives Jordan's hospitals the chance to be recognized worldwide but offers a new type of treatment for the benefit of patients from the area.

Leksell Gamma Knife has been developed by Elekta Instrument to perform non-invasive brain surgery. This way treats disorders such as tumors and vascular malformations using 201 beams of Cobalt 60 without opening the skull. This highly innovative tool has so far treated 40,000 patients worldwide enabling surgeons to penetrate targets deep into the brain.

OVERHEARD AT TURINO..

The Great New Menu???

The feature editor of this column has learned that Turino is has overhauled its menu to what it calls the Great New Menu of Turino?

It is simply a menu set out in a new style by adding a few Oriental dishes, new flavours and other splashes of gastronomy flair. The menu is called "great" because of its expected production in style and colour of material that will probably make it one of the most unusual menu formats.

The food is far more important and the stress Turino puts on its quality of ingredients is already paying off especially with the foreign community. THIS MONTH'S MOTTO FOR TURINO RESTAURANT IS: FOOD, FUN AND GASTRONOMY.

FOR THE VISITOR TO JORDAN, TURINO RESTAURANT IS TUCKED AROUND THE MAIN SQUARE OF SWEIFEYEH ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF 6TH CIRCLE.

As a reader of this column of "The Star" request a bottle, or at least a glass, of wine if you are a group of four. You'll definitely get away with it, no matter how small your meal!!

The Turino Restaurant has now become famous for its *Stealing Pillar and Exotic Sausage*. THE NEW ADDITION IS THE SAUTED CHICKEN ON THE "SKEWER" SERVED WITH ORIENTAL RICE AND FRESH HERBS.

TURINO guarantees that the chef uses the highest quality ingredients absolutely for all menu items. The important point to mention here is the all-inclusive price for our guests this Summer.

PASTA CARNIVAL JD 10
SKEWER LINE JD 12
SEAFOOD & SHRIMP JD 13
All include taxes and service

Call Turino for reservation on 863944 extn 31. You might even get free transport if you are a large party!!
Try Turino. Do call it really is worth it

Painting Rafik's way

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

An exhibition of 19 paintings by the young Jordanian/Lebanese artist Rafik Majzoub opened Monday, 3 June, at the French Cultural Center. Mostly figurative and portrait, the acrylic on brown paper paintings have very attractive compositions.

Rafik likes to draw people, "because they're interesting," he told *The Star*. He gives humorous names to his paintings that are usually written in the works themselves. Marwan and the Situation is about a friend who can never finish a painting "because he's always pondering about how to finish it and what to add to it. Sometimes he destroys a painting that was beautiful."

He uses a lot of writing in his work. "The writing is a major part of the painting. Sometimes it's bigger than the drawing itself." He had been criticized by other artists for his use of writing and humor. "I don't care. I like words that sound good or sound funny. I like words with questions especially where and why."

With six group exhibitions and two solos (the latest one in Lebanon called *Shuraba*—soup.) Rafik likes a calculated mess. His favorite artist is Jean-Michel Basquiat for his strong works and "neat" mess. "Many people tell me that I'm very much like Basquiat and I'm proud of it."

"I like to see ripples and bends," he said referring to the figures and objects in his paintings. It's more of a form of an instability that reflects

itself from the subject portrait. Come here is about somebody making a pass at some one else. The image doesn't tell much about the reaction of the latter but the whole scene has lost its stability.

Rafik doesn't copy or imitate. He likes to distort faces and people because "that's the way I see people and that's what comes out with me."

He doesn't prefer other things told about his work such as "a revolt against the standards of our living," especially in Lebanon.

But there is some protest in his works. One of the paintings is of a female nude with "hoping to see you a bride" written next to it. It is a common phrase in Arabic to tell young women, as if they were born to be married. A lot of such comments are in his works. He also likes to draw the man/woman in the street. One of the amazing works is of an old woman selling chewing gum in the street, and another of an old man walking depending on a stick.



Rafik

The height of Rafik's work in figures is in his self-portrait, a painting that concentrates on the figure leaving it without a backdrop or a background. Very delicately skewed, it stands out of the surface of the painting. It also shows the impulsiveness of Rafik's works. Some of his other figures portray ugliness. "Ugliness is beautiful. Just because it's so ugly it becomes beautiful—a very ugly painting, figure or color is a beautiful one."

Rafik doesn't subscribe to any school of art, certainly not the one that claims that ugliness is a sign of macho superiority. The exhibition is on till June 27.

Marriott Hotel receives new boss

The Amman Marriott Hotel welcomed Mr Marlyn Standen, its new general manager. He replaces Mr Richard Lyon, who has become General Manager of the Budapest Marriott in Hungary. Mr Standen brings with him a vast experience in the hospitality having worked in London and the Virgin Islands.

He held different positions in the field of food and beverage, having worked in the Riyadh Marriott Hotel and the JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong between 1982 and 1992.



Mr Standen

Amman witnesses a Japanese cultural extravaganza

The Japan week which will start this Saturday in Amman is viewed as one of the unparalleled events to be held in Jordan. The event will continue till the end of June and includes comprehensive cultural and intellectual activities. It is an assertion of the distinctive relations between Jordan and Japan marked by continuous cooperation in various economic and cultural fields.

The event which will be held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Prince Hassan and HH Prince Takamado is an indication of the strong relationship between the two royal families. A Japanese art exhibition is

held on Saturday at 11:15 pm at the Royal Cultural Center (RCC). It will consist of a number of works from leading Japanese artists. There are also traditional costumes, Dolls, Lithographs, calligraphy, porcelain, flower arrangement and paper folding demonstration. These works will continue on display till the end of the program. Jordan Television will conclude the first day by a broadcasting of Japanese T.V programs and

films. On the second day there will be seminars and sport shows. A Judo demonstration will take place at Al Hussein Sport City at 9:30 pm. Other activities include a Kimono fashion show at the InterContinental Hotel. On Monday there is a seminar on women status in both countries at the RCC. There will be a puppet and magic show for children. The Japanese movie shows are held between the 13-17 June. Some of these films include *The Glass Cape* (13 June), *The Yamashiro Story*

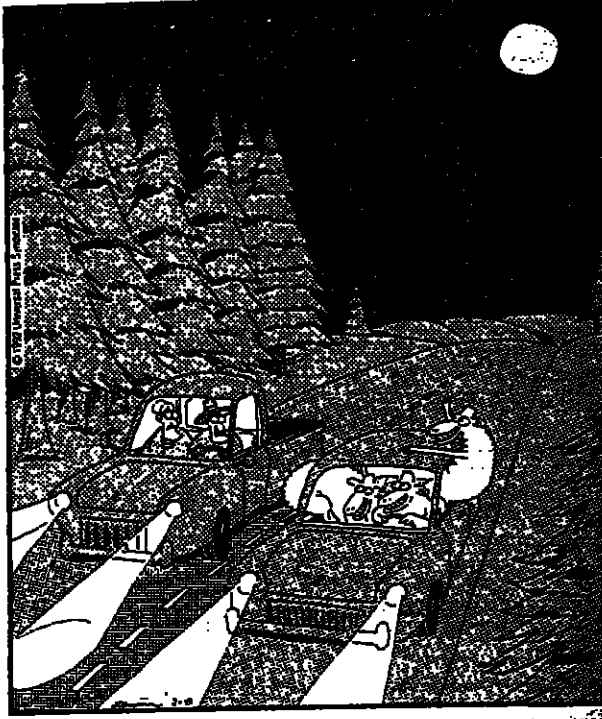
(June 14) and *Thousand Cranes* (16 June). All films are to be shown at the RCC. A theatre performance is taking place between 21-22 June at the South Theater in Jerash. The play titled, "Meadea" will be performed by the Ninagawa Dramatic Company at the end of the Japanese Week.

The festival will be concluded with a performance of traditional Japanese music. This is to take place in the Hassan Auditorium of the University of Jordan between 28-29 June.

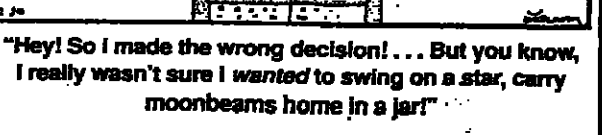
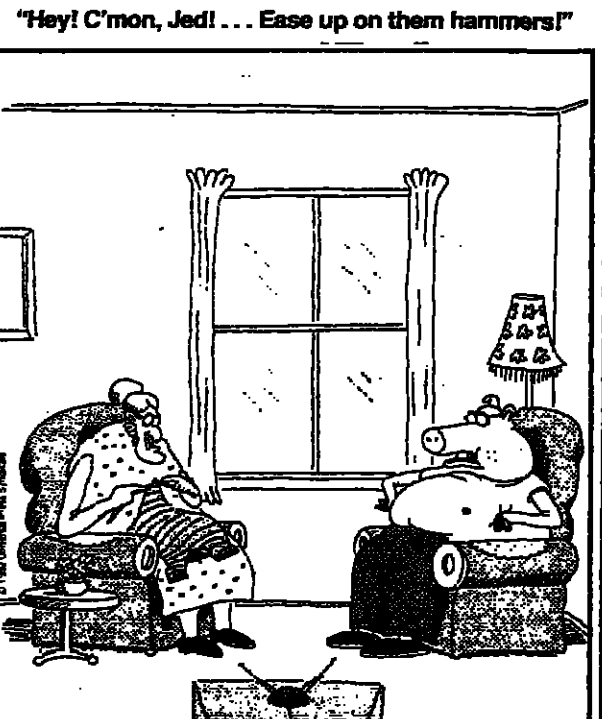
Everybody is recommended to attend this great event as its activities combine both traditional and modern aspects of Japanese culture.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Sheep that pass in the night



AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ The works of Rafik majzoub, at The French Cultural Center, continues till 27 June
■ An exhibition entitled *From Picasso to our Present Days* from the collection of Museo del Grabado Español Contemporaneo-Marbella at Darat al Funun, ends today 6 June.
■ The recent works of the artist Ayyad al Nimer at Darat al Funun, continues till 12 June.

Films

■ L'accompagnement, at The French Cultural Center, Monday 10 June at 8 pm.

Theater

■ A play entitled *La Cantatrice Chante* at the French Cultural Center, Sunday 9 June at 8 pm.
■ Performances will take place at the Roman Amphitheater in Amman at 9:30 pm
—Faculty X, Saturday 8 June.
—Duo Radici, Sunday 9 June.
—Teta Montoliu, Monday 10 June.
—Rafik Abou Khalil, Tuesday 11 June

Jazz Festival

■ Performances will take place at the Roman Amphitheater in Amman at 9:30 pm
—Faculty X, Saturday 8 June.
—Duo Radici, Sunday 9 June.
—Teta Montoliu, Monday 10 June.
—Rafik Abou Khalil, Tuesday 11 June

6 JUNE 1996
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June

JUNE 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



Official line derailed by shelling

Even on a short leash, Arab media savages Israeli state

By Osama El-Sherif

WHEN ISRAELI ARTILLERY BOMBED a UN shelter in the Southern Lebanese town of Qana, killing over 100 women and children, the international media described the massacre as a public relations nightmare for Israel. But worse than that, Israel's Grapes of Wrath operation, aimed at neutralizing Hezbollah bases in Lebanon, was a serious set-back for Arab leaders who had struck peace pacts ending decades of war with the Jewish state.

REPORTING
FROM
AMMAN

While the guns rumbled in the south, Arabs everywhere saw sickening scenes of brutalized bodies of Lebanese civilians who fell victims to Israel's indiscriminate shelling. A few seconds after the UN shelter was hit, unedited footage of the carnage was seen by millions everywhere. While Israel appeared to have the military upper hand, it clearly was losing the media war.

The Lebanon fiasco has freed the hands of the anti-Israel writers after years of losing ground, especially in the aftermath of the Gulf War. Strangely, it is in the Palestinian territories that talk of cooperation with Israel still finds sympathy

struck with Israel, were now retrenched behind old defensive lines. Israel once again became a pariah in a region used to instability and acrimony. Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, was demonized by columnists and cartoonists all over the Arab world. Only a few months ago his pictures were splashed all over front pages as he played host to King Hussein, accepted a precious gift from the sultan of Oman and sat at Amman coffee house smoking the water bubble. After his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, was shot to death by a Jewish zealot, Peres appeared to many Arabs as the man who would continue the march towards peace and a new Middle East. For him the dream of ending Israel's regional estrangement was never closer. His mission was almost complete and, for a short and delicate moment, he had some Arab newspapers on his side.

But not any more. Although the press in most Arab countries still yearns to be free, the issue of making peace with Israel continues to be the most unifying and, ironically, divisive one for the Arabs. The widely read *Al Khaleej* daily of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, continues to refer to Israel as the "Zionist entity" and only uses the word Israel between parenthesis. For the overwhelming majority of Arab newspapers, stories originating from Jerusalem are always dangled

"Occupied Jerusalem," and many Arab editors prefer to call Tel Aviv the capital of Israel.

Jordan had signed a comprehensive peace treaty two years ago, as an evil entity set to destroy the economy, corrupt the youth and buy up land to subjugate Jordan. And like in other parts of the world, the masses respond to these stories.

Recognizing the important role the press plays in winning over the masses to the peace camp, the king frequently summons editors and writers to the royal court to brief them, and in some cases to express his displeasure at the way newspapers deal with government policies especially with regard to peace and normalization with Israel. A few months back he even issued a transparent warning that unless the press changed its ways the press law, described as one of the most liberal of its kind in the Middle East, will be tightened.

But the resistance by Arab journalists to a warm peace with Israel is not confined to Jordan. In Kuwait, which many observers were betting that it would become the first Gulf country to recognize Israel, the press, which is privately owned, is vehemently against changing the status quo. The Lebanon fiasco has freed the hands of the anti-Israel writers after years of losing ground, especially in the aftermath of the Gulf War. Strangely, it is in the Palestinian territories that talk of cooperation and collaboration with Israel still finds sympathy.

The Palestinians know that while the rest of the Arabs can afford to ignore, or delay accepting, Israel's overtures, the Palestinians obviously cannot. A series of bloody suicide attacks against Israel in February by the radical Hamas movement, had triggered a complete closure of common borders between Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas. The closure has savaged the Palestinian economy and forced Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to go into direct confrontation with those opposed

to his peace deal with Israel. And although this had dented Arafat's popularity among his people, the Palestinian press, which has thrived in recent months, is still supporting his goal of negotiating a final deal with the Israelis.

In late April the Palestine National Council, which is the Pales-

Trojan horse or toy horse? To observers in Europe and the US, the media in the emerging economies of Asia and Latin America often appears to follow the official line as if pulled by a string. Those setting the official line see things differently: no matter how cowed the media may appear, it carries agendas that can flare up at a moment's notice

tinian parliament in exile, met for the first time in Gaza and voted to strike out any mention of the destruction of Israel from its charter. Again the Palestinian press chose to support Arafat in his bid to bring Israel back to the negotiating table. For the rest of the Arabs, the images from Lebanon had wiped away any chance for a quick psychological reconciliation and acceptance of Israel as a good, friendly neighbor.

The media has called Israel's bluff, leaving Arab leaders wondering what to do next. ©

OSAMA EL-SHERIF, EDITOR OF THE AMMAN-BASED DAILY NEWSPAPER *The Star*, is *The World Paper's* ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

Demand for information in Argentina explodes

Media caught between cash and credibility

By Rona Cohen

LAST MONTH, WHEN Argentine President Carlos Menem held a news conference about free-trade negotiations with Chile, he lashed out at a prominent political commentator. The commentator's offense? Making "poor use" of his freedom of the press by televising an interview with an alleged guerrilla group that used the forum to make political statements.

That Menem chose to link two unrelated events is a sign of the conflicts emerging between a government that has pursued privatization and free-market reforms and an increasingly powerful media—a product of those reforms—which is staking out its role in Argentine society.

Media is now big business in Argentina, and its fate is tied to Menem's reforms. Those reforms, however, are increasingly under fire from citizens whose discontent at a string of corruption scandals and an unemployment rate of 16 percent is fueled by a media that is competing fiercely for readers, viewers and listeners. So far, people are choosing to believe the media rather than their government.

Rosenda Fraga, a prominent Argentine political analyst, says that polls conducted by his Center for the New Majority show that the judicial system is held in the lowest esteem by the public. The most respected? The media.

"There is a crisis," says Fraga. "An erosion in Congress, an erosion in the political parties, an erosion in the judicial system, in the political and institutional system, that has created this phenomenon of the growing social role of the media."

At the same time, Menem's government is credited with fostering a free press. Ending more than 40 years of state control, Menem sold off the state-owned radio and television stations. Most of them were gobbled up by the print media barons. To

The media that has blossomed under Menem has been helped by the Argentine public's voracious appetite for news. Greater Buenos Aires, with a population of 12 million, supports 12 daily newspapers. Argentina is now the largest cable TV market in South America, with two-fifths of all subscribers on the continent, even though color television did not arrive until the 1978 World Cup soccer tournament.

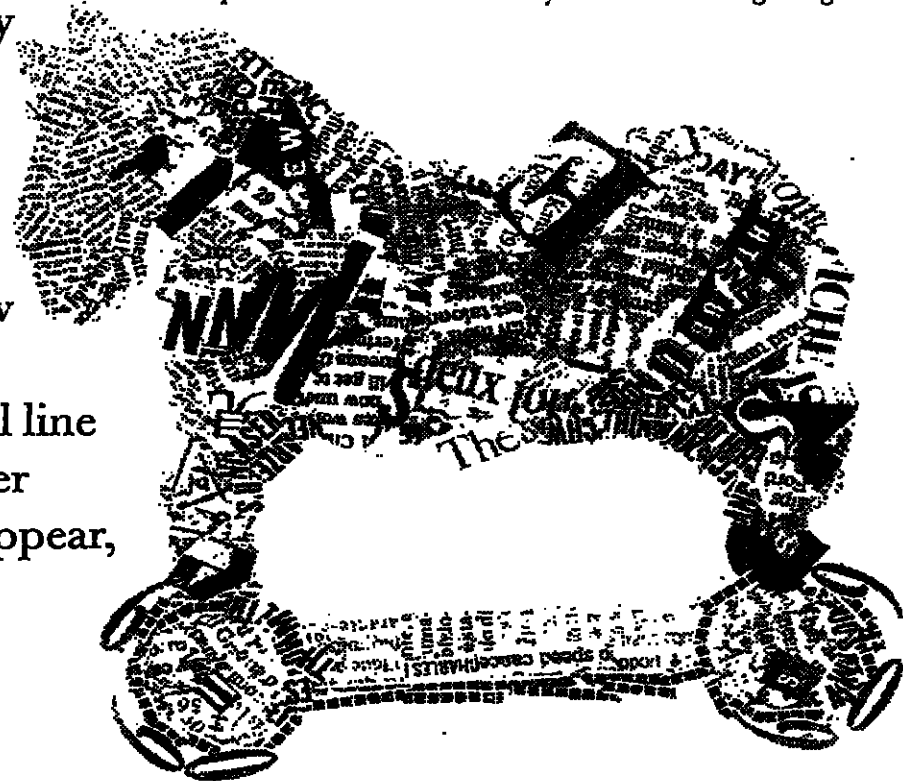
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Some critics now say that the media has gone too far in occupying the role left vacant by ineffective branches of the government. As military leaders convicted of murder during the 1976-83 "Dirty War" walk the streets freely after the wave of pardons issued following the return to civilian rule, "the press has begun to replace justice," says Saig. It is now taking on a role of social mediator, something the public thinks the courts cannot handle.

Recently, the government's response has been to lash back. A federal prosecutor filed a court complaint in the case that sparked Menem's outburst. The prosecutor called the interview—in which guerrillas claimed to have killed Jorge Berges, convicted of torture during the Dirty War and subsequently pardoned—"a justification of the crime." According to the journalist in question, "instead of asking for the tape [of the interview], which could help the investigation, they decided to investigate me."

Nearly half of those surveyed for a poll in April said that they believe the media has shed light on the judicial process. Starting in 1994, the media has been allowed to film trials—a situation that allows the viewing public to become the jury. The chilling, televised confession of a former navy officer who helped throw drugged leftists to their deaths out of aircraft flying over the ocean triggered a wave of mea culpas by the armed forces and their opponents.

In another televised murder trial, two lawyers were filmed signaling to each



day three families dominate the media in Buenos Aires.

The largest multimedia organization, headed by Ernestina Herrera de Noble, is the Clarin Group. Its revenues, derived from newspapers, radio stations and the country's largest cable television network, exceed US\$1 billion a year. The Mire family publishes the daily newspaper *La Nacion*, has interests in radio and television, and owns *Papel Prensa*, which has a near monopoly on newsprint supplies in Argentina.

Rounding out the top three is Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat, openly pro-Menem and the owner of cement companies, railways, radio and TV stations and the *La Prensa* newspaper. Fortabat bought *La Prensa* in 1993, after it had been in decline for decades.

other about whether or not to prosecute a witness on perjury charges, leading the three-judge tribunal to suspend all coverage on the grounds that reporters were "distorting" the facts. After intense public pressure, the provincial supreme court reversed the tribunal's ruling.

Despite the media's policing activities, it is a business. Its best interests lie in the success of Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo's Convertibility Plan—a return to the dreaded hyperinflation of the 1980s would jeopardize profits. In Fraga's opinion, "The media isn't against an economic plan that has enabled it to earn lots of money." ©

RONA COHEN WRITES FOR *The Buenos Aires Herald*, A DAILY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER.

Colonial rules survive independence and stifle news

Zimbabwe's rulers like the sound of their own opinions

By Josephine Masimba

EACH DAY, IMAGES of Third World disaster, pictures of supermodels and profiles of powerbrokers vie for the attention of Zimbabweans in stores, street corner racks and other media outlets.

To many Zimbabweans, this abundance of choices testifies to the success of economic and political liberalization officially embraced by the government in the early 1990s. Amid the growing clamor for transparency from millions fed up with sanitized information from the official media, the independent monthlies *Parade* and *Horizon* (and until recently the weekly *Financial Gazette*) stand out among the 195 registered magazines as oases of news with their reporting of corruption in high places.

Horizon claims a readership of about 500,000 and *Parade* about two million. With all the minority political parties fractured by internal quibbling or otherwise discredited, these publications have arguably become the true opposition to the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF).

"Action has been taken as a result of an article we published on medical malpractice in Munene (southwestern Zimbabwe) district hospital," recalls Mark Chavunduka, *Parade's* editor. "A couple of years back we covered an MP (member of parliament) beating up people in Chegutu and the police opened a docket on him."

Chavunduka boasts that production has "gone up from 90,000 copies per month this time last year to 120,000 copies now." But for many here, this appearance of pluralism barely disguises the reality of a government that maintains

a stranglehold on the media, stifling freedom of expression and bolstering a de facto one party state. It's a far cry from the strident powerhouses of the West, or even neighboring South Africa. Zimbabwe's media remains at best cowed by, and at worst a sycophant of, ZANU-PF.

Human rights advocates blame the situation on Zimbabwe's history, legal framework, culture and economic set-up. The independent white minority regime that operated the information ministry as the propaganda arm of its security apparatus passed on its repressive legislation to the incoming black rulers at independence in 1980.

"There's a history of authoritarianism, there's never been a culture of an analytical press. There's been an authoritarian government in power since independence that discourages all forms of investigative journalism and is aggressively intolerant of criticism," explains Andy Moyse, *Horizon's* editor.

A former guerrilla movement, ZANU-PF is now under fire for capitalizing on—rather than scrapping—measures such as the Prisons Act, which forbids interviewing prisoners, and the Criminal Defamation laws, whose wide definition of defamation makes criticism of public officials extremely risky.

Examples of journalists who have incurred the government's wrath for practices considered standard in neighboring South Africa are numerous. The arrest in May 1995 of three executives from the *Financial Gazette* is still

fresh in the minds of many Zimbabweans. The three were charged with defaming a High Court judge and Cabinet minister who were alleged by an article in their paper to have witnessed the secret wedding of President Robert Mugabe to his former secretary Grace Marufu.

Such incidents have perpetuated a culture of fear among journalists, as Moyse explains. "[Young reporters] are reluctant to quiz seniors. If a 24-year-old reporter has the guts to ignore his culture and challenge a 65-year-old

chief, the chief just dismisses you as so much chaff. This is changing now with urbanization but it has slowed down the development of journalism."

The *Financial Gazette's* deputy editor, Nevhanji Madhanire's agrees, recalling a police raid on the paper in early February, after it published an article claiming that Mugabe demanded in vain that his jet land before South African President Nelson Mandela's when the two leaders visited Lesotho.

"The arrests shook us. Imagine how the junior reporters felt when they saw their bosses being tossed around with policemen all over the place searching the newsroom," he says.

In this climate, the observation by government Director of Information Bornwell Chakadza that, "media in any country must freely report upon the exercise of power. The main human right in the 20th century will be the right to information," seems almost tongue-in-cheek.

Official hostility to the independent press impacts on it in more far-reaching ways. "Paper is very expensive, and paper accounts for 60 percent of our production costs," says Moyse. "Advertisements bring in twice the revenues our sales do, but there's a very small economic base and well-established government newspapers take the bulk of advertisements. Also, advertisers are very conservative and they don't want to risk losing government contracts by advertising in independent papers."

The mainstream print media is also dominated by the government through the Mass Media Trust, whose subsidiary Zimpapers owns *The Herald*, the only national daily with a readership of 114,000, the *Chronicle*, a daily based in Bulawayo, and numerous weekly papers.

With their heads bolder to ZANU-PF, notes political scientist John Makumbe, these papers and the information they disseminate are "little more than megaphones for their master's voice."

Moyse concurs: "This has condemned us all to a prolonged struggle with ignorance. An informed society makes better decisions. [At present we] respond only to propaganda instead of to the issues at stake."

JOSEPHINE MASIMBA REPORTS FOR THE INTERPRESS SERVICE FROM ITS BUREAU IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE.

A 'Quiet Revolution' unchains free speech

Taiwan's media blooms

By David Ting

EARLIER THIS YEAR, as President Lee Teng-hui was campaigning for reelection through the *Pescadores*, he was confronted by the fruits of a quiet revolution that has swept Taiwan in recent years.

Addressing an army of 200 journalists, Lee observed that, "A few years ago you wouldn't have come to Taiwan even if we'd invited you. Now you are swarming here without an invitation."

The remark by the 73-year-old president highlights the dramatic changes in Taiwan's media over the past decade. In the days before martial law was lifted in 1987, foreign reporters were reluctant to visit Taiwan, a country whose authoritarian rulers regarded no news as good news. Those journalists that did visit the island nation found it hard to file worthwhile stories.

Today, the story is completely different. This March, an estimated 600 foreign journalists converged on Taiwan to cover its first direct presidential election. These elections were given added emphasis by the war games that China staged; these included missile tests that came provocatively close to Taiwan's coastline.

The "Quiet Revolution" that made this election—and the open reporting about it—possible started in 1987. With the lifting of martial law came an end to the 38-year-old ban on independent political parties and newspapers. They sprang up like mushrooms, getting a further boost when Lee assumed the presidency after the death of Chiang Ching-kuo in 1988. Never before in China's 5,000-year-old history has there been such a degree of freedom of speech.

Lee, who has encouraged this trend, has seen first-hand how the media can bite the hand that feeds it. During his recent campaign, Lee was attacked, slandered and maligned in the press by his rivals, including one who charged

him with being an ex-communist. "They are talking through their hats," was Lee's mild riposte.

This has not been lost on Freedom House, the New York-based watchdog on human rights and press freedom. For the second year in a row, Taiwan is one of the 64 countries rated as free; 65 were deemed partly free and 58 "not free."

Within Taiwan, the media is aggressively establishing itself as a "fourth estate," relentlessly attacking the failings of government and investigating the nagging problem of official corruption. As a result, 44 candidates have been indicted for buying votes in the 1995 elections. Newspapers have also exposed collaboration between government officials and organized crime in the theft of huge sums from public works projects.

With this growing power comes some abuses. There are already calls for responsible journalism and an end to the worst abuses of press freedom. Also, the government still controls the electronic media, and the Quiet Revolution will not be complete until that sector is fully privatized.

In spite of this, Taiwan's media is maturing rapidly—after all, it has taken the country under a decade to shift from an authoritarian society to a democracy. ☐

DAVID TING IS AN EDITORIAL WRITER FOR THE TAIPEI-BASED NEWSPAPER *The China Post*.

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The Star's GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 8-14 June

ENGLISH PROGRAMS SATURDAY

3:00—Roland Garros / Ladies' Singles Final & Men's Doubles Final
 8:30—Nippon: the Land and its People (Japan's Technology)
 8:55—Miller-Fenwick
 9:15—Prism
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:25—Daily Summary - Japan Week
 10:35—The Bold and the Beautiful
 11:10—Feature Film: *Heart of Darkness*, starring, Tim Roth and John Malkovich

SUNDAY

3:00—The Mask
 3:30—Mac and Mutley
 4:00—Roland Garros / Men's Singles' Final
 7:00—1996 European Championships: Germany VS The Czech Republic
 8:55—The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
 9:20—Daily Summary - Japan Week
 9:30—1996 European Championships: Denmark VS Portugal
 10:15—News at Ten
 9:30—1996 European Championships (2nd Half)
 11:20—Counterstrike

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
 3:30—Richie Rich
 3:55—Playabout
 4:05—Animals of the Mediterranean
 4:35—Bustin Loose
 5:00—French Programs
 6:30—1996 European Championships:

Netherlands VS Scotland
 8:25—Nippon: the Land and its People (Japan's Corporate System)
 8:55—Rock Around the World
 9:20—Daily Summary - Japan Week
 9:30—1996 European Championships: Romania VS France
 10:15—News at Ten
 10:30—1996 European Championships (2nd Half)
 11:20—The Bold and the Beautiful

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris: the Happy Professor
 3:20—Captain Planet
 3:45—Hot Shots
 4:10—The Bob Morrison Show
 4:35—All
 5:00—French Programs
 6:30—1996 European Championships: Italy VS Russia
 8:25—Blossom
 8:50—Miller-Fenwick
 9:05—Varieties
 9:10—Star Trek
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:25—Daily Summary - Japan Week
 10:35—Feature Film: *The Face of Fear*, starring, Elizabeth Ashley and Ricardo Montalban
 11:45—My Two Wives

WEDNESDAY

3:00—The Flintstones
 3:30—Dinosaurs
 3:55—The New 3 Stooges
 4:00—Bill Nye, the Science Guy
 4:30—Kelly

Julie Andrews in *Victor Victoria*, on Thursday at 10:35pm

5:00—French Programs
 7:30—News Headlines
 7:35—Evening Shade
 8:00—People Count
 8:25—Chancer
 9:10—Hunter
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:25—Daily Summary - Japan Week
 10:35—The Bold and the Beautiful
 11:25—Airwolf

THURSDAY

3:00—Double Dragon
 3:30—The New 3 Stooges
 3:35—NBA
 4:35—Pirates
 5:00—French Programs
 6:30—1996 European Cham-

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4:10—The Crystal Maze

5:00—French Programs
 6:30—1996 European Championships: Turkey VS Portugal
 8:25—People Count
 9:10—The Wanderer
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:25—Classic Movie: *The Portrait*, starring Gregory Peck and Luren Bacall

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
 5:15—Emission jeunesse
 5:30—Jeux
 6:00—Série
 6:15—Château Vallon
 7:00—Le journal
 7:15—Faut pas rêver

DIMANCHE

5:00—Dessins animés
 5:15—Emission jeunesse
 5:30—Jeux
 6:00—Magazine
 6:15—Envoyé spécial
 7:00—Le journal
 7:15—Magazine

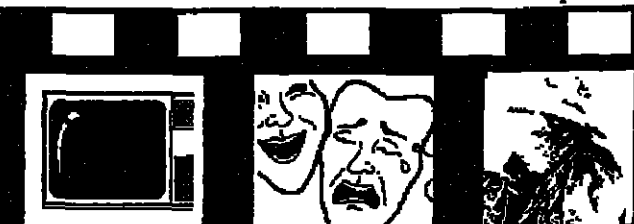
LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés
 5:15—Diversité
 5:30—L'école des fans
 6:00—Magazine
 6:15—Thalassa

FRIDAY

3:00—Iris, the Happy Professor
 3:20—Pebbles and Bamm-Bamm Show
 3:45—Bush School
 3:55—See How They Grow

Programs are subject to change by JTV



Cinema

"BABYFEVER" (Fox Lorber, \$89.98): Noted director Henry Jaglom ("Eating," "New Year's Day") applies his unique approach to the subject of parenthood in this funny yet poignant offering, surveying a number of characters who consider having a child before it's biologically too late. The film's ensemble cast includes Frances Fisher ("Unforgotten"), Eric Roberts, Matt Salinger and newcomer Victoria Foyt. *** (R: AS, P)

"BRAM STOKER'S BURIAL OF THE RATS" (New Horizons, \$91.50): One of the offerings in Showtime's "Roger Corman Presents" series, this melodrama might remind some viewers of the horror tale "Willard." Adrienne Barbeau plays the ruler of a feminist group who has power over rats ... something that bodes ill for "Dracula" writer Stoker, portrayed here by Kevin Alber. ** (R: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT" (Columbia/Tristar, \$102.31): Director Rob Reiner reteamed with "A Few Good Men" writer Aaron Sorkin for this charming romantic tale. Michael Douglas plays the widowed leader of the United States whose affair with a spirited lobbyist (Annette Bening) sets political rivals' tongues wagging, and pollsters' statistics fluctuating. Martin Sheen and Michael J. Fox co-star. *** (PG-13: AS, P)

"MR. STITCH" (WarnerVision, \$92.95): The title of this horror film should make sense when it's described as a variation on "Frankenstein," with Rutger Hauer playing the scientist determine to create a synthetic man from the parts of corpses. The result of the experiment retains the memories of those it's been assembled from, causing terror. Nia Peeples ("Fame") and Wil Wheaton also star. ** (R: AS, P, V)

"THE ROAD HOME" (Republic, \$96.16): Though "Boys Town" is a celebrated film in its own right, this drama puts a different angle on that tale, tracing the efforts of two orphaned siblings — portrayed by Will Estes (TV's "Kirk") and Keegan MacIntosh — to reach that site by taking risks as they hop aboard freight trains. Charles Martin Smith, Danny Aiello and Kris Kristofferson and Mickey Rooney also appear. ** (Not rated: P, V)

COMING SOON: "FATHER OF THE BRIDE, PART II" (Touchstone, June 11): Dad's (Steve Martin) in a quandary when both his wife (Diane Keaton) and daughter become pregnant at the same time. (PG)

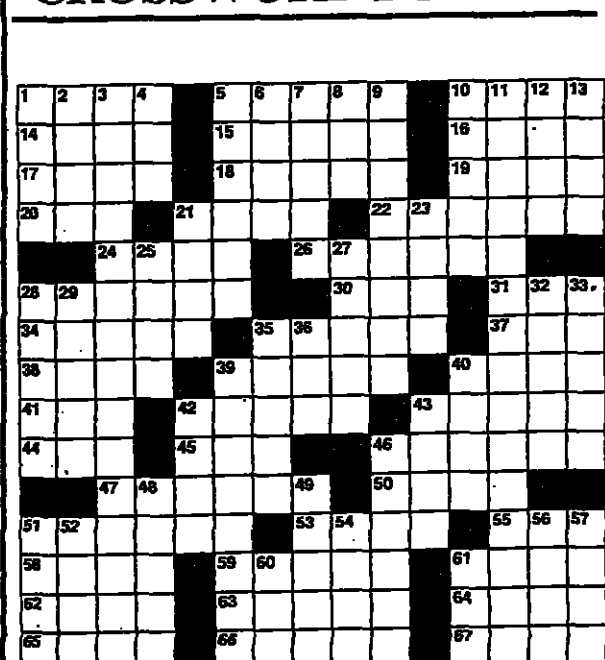
"SABRINA" (Paramount, June 11): Harrison Ford and Greg Kinnear play brothers vying for the love of their chauffeur's daughter (Julia Ormond) in this remake. (PG)

"LAWMOWER MAN 2: JOBE'S WAR" (New Line, June 11): The sequel to the virtual-reality thriller finds the exploited gardener (Matt Frewer) wanting revenge. (R)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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 19 Stage speech
 20 Maleco
 21 Kind of infant
 22 Soviet river
 23 Malt beverage
 24 Corruption

— THIS WEEK'S — HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The sun's in Gemini, perfect for scholastic activities. More good news: Mercury goes direct so mistakes won't be as easy to make.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Make up for all the time you've wasted. A partner helps with a big writing project. This could lead to romance, by the way.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Mercury goes direct in your sign, which means fewer hassles regarding money. A big assignment's more work than fun. Push to get it in.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You're fabulous with words — argue your position. Dispense information on a need-to-know basis. A dear friend may finally share a secret. Don't blab about that, either.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Clear up a misunderstanding. You won't be mad once you know the whole story. Do something you and a friend enjoy.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll finally understand what a difficult person wants. Don't forget a date, or your sweetie will be steamed. Your true love has a new game to teach you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your luck increases when Mercury goes direct. Stuff pertaining to money or travel will be easier, so go shopping!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you fall in love with an attractive foreigner, watch out. That one may have a prior commitment.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't take a partner too seriously. Wait to buy a new gadget — it's less likely to malfunction. Even work should go well.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your friends are the key to your success. Make sure they know how much you appreciate their help.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's too much work. A friend's mistake makes your life more difficult. Information you learn makes it easier.

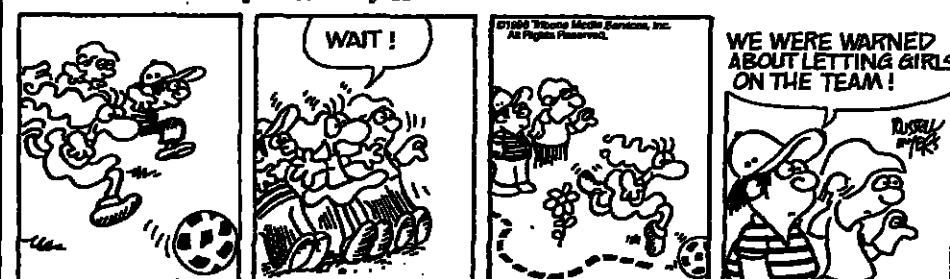
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have the advantage — take it. Don't argue with the supervisor unless you want to take your complaint clear to the CEO's office.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Keep studying a financial problem; you'll figure it out. Buy what you need for your home or room.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: You're brilliant this year. Write your thesis, or the Great American novel. Stop pondering and get busy.

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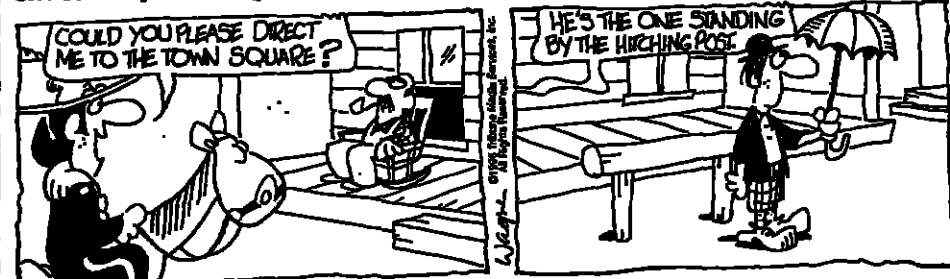
PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Ben Templeton & Tom Forman



CATFISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

BEDIP

UNYTT

RUCCIS

PERUPA



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

STEP IT UP

Answer: BIPED NUTTY CIRCUS PAUPER

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Words of Wisdom

The greater the character, the greater the faults seem to be by comparison.

To be jealous is to poison your own banquet.

To be successful is to be prepared for opportunities when they come.

Inequality of power destroys authority.

The question "why" is one that causes the most consternation because so many focus on "how."

Our actions show us clearly what we are capable of.

Too much talk about tomorrow indicates an unwillingness to take action today.

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Bridge

Against All Odds
 By Tannah Hirsch

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 8 3
 ♥ A 7 2
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ A K 9 8 3

EAST
 ♠ A K 7 6 5
 ♥ Q 9 8
 ♦ Q 10 2
 ♣ 10 7

SOUTH
 ♠ 4 2
 ♥ K J 10 6 5 4
 ♦ A J 6
 ♣ Q 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
10	Pass	2♠	Pass
20	Pass	40	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Beware of players who give you a suit combination and ask you how you would play it. What is correct in a vacuum could be totally the opposite of the right technique when the context of the hand as a whole is considered. Here's an example of what we mean.

It might seem that North-South have a cheap sacrifice at four spades. However, repeated heart leads force declarer to ruff twice in dummy and sets up a trump trick in the North hand for down two — 500 if doubled.

West led the jack of spades, which was allowed to hold, and continued with the ten. South covered with dummy's queen, taken by the king, and the defense was at the crossroads. A diamond switch now would have left declarer with a guess in the trump suit, but there was the possibility that West had started with a doubleton spade and that South held the ace and king of diamonds. After some thought, East elected to continue with the ace of spades, ruffed by declarer.

The percentage play with nine cards in the suit missing the queen is to cash the ace and king, hoping to drop the lady. As can be seen, that will cost the contract here since the 4-2 club break means that declarer will have to lose a trump and a diamond. But declarer led a heart to the ace and finessed the jack on the way back!

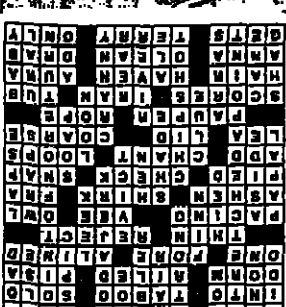
That was a safety play to virtually guarantee the contract. If the jack lost to the queen, declarer would win any return, discard a diamond on a high club, then set up a long club via a ruff. That would take care of the remaining diamond loser since dummy's seven of trumps was an entry. As it was, the finesse won and declarer was happy to concede a diamond trick in the end, losing only two spade tricks and a diamond.

SLAPSTIX
 When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a pretty small package.

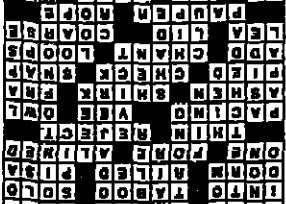
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PART OF THE
 SECRET IN
 LIFE IS TO
 EAT WHAT
 YOU LIKE AND
 LET THE FOOD
 FIGHT IT OUT



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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Le roi Hussein ne s'inquiète pas

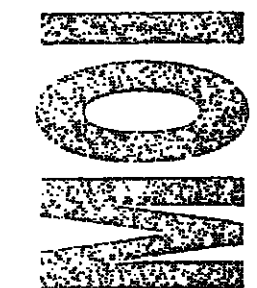
En déclarant qu'il est convaincu que «le processus de paix a un avenir brillant», le roi Hussein s'est démarqué des dirigeants arabes en accordant un préjugé favorable au nouveau Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu. Cette déclaration tranchante en effet avec l'inquiétude manifestée par la majorité des dirigeants arabes qui craignent que le processus de paix soit aujourd'hui menacé.

Selon le souverain hachémite, Benjamin Netanyahu «poursuivra le processus de paix en dépit de ses déclarations de campagne électorale». Une campagne au cours de laquelle le chef de file de la droite nationaliste a notamment déclaré que la statue de Jérusalem n'était pas négociable, qu'il fermerait la Maison d'Orient, siège officiel de l'OLP à Jérusalem-Est, et qu'il n'échangerait pas le Golan contre la paix avec la Syrie.

Le roi a ainsi tenu à rassurer les Palestiniens qui, pour lui, «n'ont pas de raison de s'inquiéter».



SELON



Nous possédons une mémoire sélective et de courte durée, et nous vivons dans l'éternel espoir que le futur président américain ou le prochain Premier ministre israélien fertilise nos moissons et nous rende notre poudrière réduite à une transparente feuille de vigne. Nous oublions que ces deux États sont gouvernés par des institutions et non par des régimes totalitaires. Nous nous entêtons à ignorer que depuis la création de l'État d'Israël, tous nos malheurs sont le chef du parti travailliste et que chaque nouveau maître à la maison blanche ne fait que nous humilier davantage.

Depuis 1992, l'illusion sert de voile à nos échecs et nous prions le ciel pour que le nouveau chef du Likoud ne gouverne pas car on nous affirme qu'il va nous saigner à vie.

Effrayés, nous avons confié nos destinées à Rabin, puis à Peres, qui nous ont épuisés en douceur et à feu doux tout en nous freinant des mots tendres sur une musique douce qui composait notre requiem.

Hélas, tous les orphelins libanais et palestiniens, toutes les mères endeuillées à Cana, toutes les terres brûlées du Sud-Liban n'ont pas suffi à Peres pour arracher la victoire. Frappé par la malédiction de ses victimes, il paye aujourd'hui le prix de ses mauvais calculs et de son orgueil. La carrière du vieux Shimon s'est terminée sans qu'il n'ait jamais remporté une grande élection.

Le peuple israélien a beaucoup souffert des erreurs du passé et a déjà payé cher l'arrogance de ses dirigeants à travers les siècles. Les intellectuels du pays savent aussi qu'Israël n'a jamais existé en tant qu'État plus de soixante-dix ans de suite et ils ne veulent pas sombrer dans l'errance d'antan par l'absence d'une politique à la fois ferme et franche.

Les Israéliens, soucieux de l'avenir de la paix et très inquiets par les déclarations sociales que connaît leur pays, ont tranché. Le nouveau Premier ministre a l'inconvénient d'être franc, rigoureux et pragmatique dans une société que l'incertitude a déclinée.

M. Netanyahu a l'avantage de savoir ce que les Israéliens cherchent. Il sait que des deux côtés la confiance règne, que la haine demeure dans les cœurs et que les doigts sont toujours sur les gâchettes.

«Bibi l'Américain» est là par la volonté de ceux que l'indécision, l'hésitation et l'impulsivité de Peres effrayaient car il pourra leur garantir un avenir proche serein.

Avec Bibi, ou bien les traités de paix insuffisants et fragiles se transformeront en une véritable paix et amitié, non seulement entre les dirigeants mais aussi entre les peuples, permettant ainsi aux poignées de main hypocrites de devenir des accolades sincères, ou bien les projets sionistes du grand Israël renflouent.

L'avenir de l'État hébreu et de la région n'est plus aujourd'hui dans les mains de gérontocrates qui cherchent leur place dans l'histoire, mais dépend désormais de la sagesse de ceux qui sont nés et ont grandi dans la crainte, la haine et l'incertitude.

Suhail Al Sweis

Irak

Un rapport sanctionne l'Onu

Le rapport d'une Organisation non gouvernementale, le Centre pour les droits économiques et sociaux, dénonce les sanctions onusiennes imposées à l'Irak. Des mesures qui frappent le peuple irakien depuis maintenant plus de six années.

Un sentiment de soulagement s'est emparé de l'Irak à la suite de la signature de l'accord «pétrole contre nourriture» après quatre mois de négociation avec les Nations-Unies. L'accord donne l'autorisation à l'Irak de vendre du pétrole pour une valeur d'un milliard de dollars tous les trois mois afin d'acheter de la nourriture et des médicaments. Le Conseil de sécurité garde le droit de renouveler cette autorisation tous les six mois.

Un tel accord, selon une étude effectuée par le Centre pour les droits économiques et sociaux (CDES), couvrirait environ 20 à 25% des besoins irakiens humanitaires qui comprennent l'achat de nourriture, de médicaments, d'équipements médicaux, ainsi que l'entretien de machines médicales, le renouvellement de l'équipement du système sanitaire et celui du traitement de l'eau ainsi que la remise sur pied du système éducatif.

Le CDES, qui a achevé pendant les mois d'avril et mai, une étude sur l'effet des sanctions onusiennes sur le peuple irakien et leur incidence sur le respect des droits de l'Homme en Irak, a publié quelques jours avant l'annonce de l'accord «pétrole contre nourriture» un rapport mettant en avant les souffrances endurées par la population irakienne à cause de l'embargo international.

Le rapport reproche au Conseil de sécurité des manquements graves à ses obligations en matière de droits de l'Homme. Il considère que les Nations-Unies ont clairement violé les droits des Irakiens. Le peuple irakien a vu beaucoup de ses enfants mourir à cause d'un embargo imposé depuis six ans pour punir le régime de Bagdad.

«Même un coupable a des droits qui doit respecter celui qui le condamne», argumente Saad Hamid, représentant du CDES pour le Moyen-Orient. Le rapport reproche à l'ONU



L'acceptation de la résolution 986 par l'Irak ne suffira pas à changer les conditions de vie de la population. Et dans les hôpitaux, les médicaments continueront à manquer.

d'avoir mis en place des sanctions entraînant une situation déplorable dans le pays.

La mise en garde de Javier Perez de Cuellar, secrétaire général de l'ONU, juste après la guerre du Golfe, montre bien que la communauté internationale était consciente des risques qui existaient. «Le maintien de l'approvisionnement de l'alimentation ainsi que le contrôle de la situation en ce qui concerne la santé et la nutrition du peuple irakien dans les mois à venir seront absolument nécessaires pour empêcher une famine à grande échelle ou tout désastre humanitaire qui peut se produire dans le pays».

Et au cours des six dernières années, l'ONU n'a cessé d'envoyer des missions pour surveiller l'application des résolutions du Conseil de sécurité, pour aider les prisonniers koweïtiens ou pour contrôler l'armement irakien. Mais aucune n'avait pour but d'étudier

l'effet des sanctions sur le peuple privé d'argent et de moyens lui permettant de mener une vie décente.

La mort de plus de 500 000 enfants

L'obstination du régime irakien de ne pas se conformer aux résolutions de l'ONU ne peut pas être une raison suffisante pour punir tout un peuple. Le rapport considère que l'ONU a gravement manqué à ses responsabilités en violant sa charte qui édicte le respect des droits fondamentaux de l'Homme, de la dignité et de la valeur de l'Homme».

Le Conseil de la sécurité impute aujourd'hui la responsabilité des souffrances irakiennes au régime de Saddam Hussein qui a refusé de se soumettre aux résolutions de l'ONU. L'ambassadeur américain aux Nations-Unies Madeleine Albright justifie ces sanctions

par le fait que l'Irak a «hâti 49 châteaux et en a restauré 10», semblant oublier que pendant ce temps-là le peuple n'avait pas de quoi manger. Une accusation qui prouve combien la situation sur place n'était absolument pas connue.

Faute de ressources financières découlant de l'interdiction de vendre du pétrole, le peuple irakien n'a pu qu'essayer de survivre.

Avec la mort d'un demi-million de citoyens pendant la guerre du Golfe et d'un million de demi-million d'enfants pendant les six dernières années, l'ONU doit réaliser aujourd'hui les dégâts qu'elle a causés.

Et il va falloir du temps pour que les Irakiens puissent se remettre de la misère humanitaire engendrée par ces décisions onusiennes.

Orouh El Abed

Elections israéliennes

Les Palestiniens résignés

Contrairement aux dirigeants palestiniens qui ont peur que le dialogue avec le nouveau Premier ministre israélien soit difficile, la population, déçue par Peres, se montre assez indifférente.

A l'instar de l'évolution

du scrutin, la réaction des Palestiniens après les 14^{èmes} élections générales israéliennes a connu deux temps. Tout d'abord une certaine satisfaction après l'annonce de la victoire de Shimon Peres sur son rival. Puis, quelques heures après, la stupeur en découvrant que Netanyahu était en fait le vainqueur de ce scrutin. Le chef de l'OLP a alors immédiatement interdit tout commentaire aux responsables de l'Autorité nationale palestinienne. Suite à la publication vendredi des résultats officiels, Benjamin Netanyahu a convoqué une réunion du Comité exécutif de l'OLP et du Conseil des ministres de l'Autorité pour la première épreuve difficile que connaît ce jeune gouvernement.

Placée devant le fait accompli, l'ANP n'a pas d'autre choix que de renouveler son espoir dans la volonté annoncée du gouvernement israélien de se tenir aux accords signés. Dans un communiqué, l'OLP a déclaré respecter le choix des électeurs israéliens tout en espérant que «le gouvernement de Netanyahu respectera les accords signés ultérieurement».

Il est évident que l'ANP aurait préféré continuer le dialogue pour la paix avec Shimon Peres. Elle avait même déployé de nombreux efforts ces dernières semaines pour favoriser son élection; l'abrogation de la



Les efforts des Palestiniens ces dernières semaines en faveur de Peres n'ont pas empêché la victoire de Netanyahu.

charte nationale palestinienne, l'acceptation du retrait différé d'Hébron.

Dans la rue, la réaction est différente de celles des dirigeants palestiniens. Contrairement à l'ANP qui souhaitait une certaine continuité, le peuple ne voit pas de grandes différences entre les deux candidats israéliens. Depuis 1948, c'est en effet la gauche israélienne qui a été à l'origine de nombreux massacres et de la politique accentuée de confiscation des terres. Quant au bloc des territoires et le bombardement de Cana, tous deux sont signés Peres.

Un chercheur palestinien explique que «contrairement à la gauche, la droite peut avancer vers la paix sans crainte de surenchère de la part de l'opposition».

Après tout, c'est le Likoud et son leader Begin qui ont signé la paix avec l'Égypte et qui ont évacué les colonies du Sinaï. Certes les circonstances ne sont absolument pas les mêmes aujourd'hui.

Mais on sait bien que dans cette région du globe, rien n'est éternel, ni exclu.

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi

Economie

La nouvelle donne israélienne

La victoire de Benjamin Netanyahu devrait introduire en Israël une nouvelle politique économique plus favorable, à long terme, au développement des relations commerciales isarélo-arabes.

Si la victoire de Benjamin

Netanyahu est inquiétante politiquement en raison de la présence sur sa liste de personnalités comme Ariel Sharon ou Rafael Elain et des idées extrémistes qu'ils défendent, elle peut offrir économiquement des perspectives intéressantes pour la région. Il faut en effet mettre de côté les réactions émotionnelles et analyser économiquement ce résultat.

Benjamin Netanyahu est un homme de droite. Il a répété à de nombreuses reprises lors de sa campagne qu'il souhaitait appliquer une politique économique libérale. Dans ce domaine, il semble avoir une vision plus moderne que le gouvernement précédent qui suivait une politique socialiste dirigiste. Si le nouveau Premier ministre a les moyens de tenir ses promesses, il devrait donc ouvrir l'économie israélienne.

En ce qui concerne la région, il est possible que les facteurs économiques internes aux différents pays voisins d'Israël poussent le Likoud en 1997 à réaliser une paix plus «chaude» avec les Palestiniens, et les Jordaniens en particulier.

Un gouvernement de droite souhaitant appliquer une politique de libre-entreprise devrait en effet encourager les sociétés israéliennes (surtout les petites et moyennes entreprises) à aller chercher de nouveaux marchés en Jordanie, et à recourir de

façon plus importante à la main-d'œuvre palestinienne et jordanienne. Si le gouvernement israélien distribue moins d'aides aux sociétés, elles seront en effet obligées de se montrer plus entrepreneuriales et dirigeront probablement leurs activités vers l'Est.

Au Nord, la Syrie et le Liban vont aussi rapidement devenir un enjeu économique. Le nouveau gouvernement va tout faire pour prouver qu'il peut faire un interlocuteur valable pour négocier la paix. L'équipe de Netanyahu ne comprend en effet pas que des militaires, mais beaucoup d'hommes d'affaires qui savent qu'un règlement pacifique offrirait, à long terme, un accès vers les pays du Golfe.

Il ne faut pas non plus oublier que les aides économiques américaines risquent de diminuer en 1997. Si c'est le cas, Israël n'aura pas d'autre choix que de développer des relations économiques avec ses voisins arabes pour assurer son développement.

Il est bien sûr difficile de se montrer dès aujourd'hui franchement optimiste, surtout pour l'année 1996. Mais après examen du programme économique du Likoud, il semble bien que les visions du «maréchal» Peres aient aujourd'hui laissé la place à des idées plus en phase avec les réalités de la région.

Riad Al Khouri, MEBA S.A.R.L.

Pour le 14 juillet, le Star vous ouvre ses pages.
Un supplément spécial en français sera réalisé à l'occasion de la fête nationale de la France.
Une place spéciale est réservée aux entreprises souhaitant profiter de cette opportunité pour faire de la publicité.
Pour tout renseignement, contactez Olivier Bras au Star.
Tel: 645 380 ou 652 380. Fax: 648 298

Musique

Amman rejoint la caravane du jazz

Le jazz s'installe à Amman pour une dizaine de jours. Grâce au festival euro-arabe organisé par l'Union européenne, dix groupes vont se succéder soir après soir à partir d'aujourd'hui dans l'amphithéâtre romain.

Le cœur d'Amman se met à l'heure du jazz pour une dizaine de jours. Dans le cadre du festival euro-arabe de jazz, dix groupes vont se succéder chaque soir à 21h30 à partir d'aujourd'hui sur la scène de l'amphithéâtre romain d'Amman.

Un cadre somptueux choisi pour permettre au plus de gens possible d'assister à ce festival. Décider d'organiser une telle manifestation en «basse-ville» n'était pas chose facile. Beaucoup d'habitants d'Amman ne connaissent en effet pas cet endroit, et n'imaginent pas qu'un tel festival puisse y avoir lieu. «C'est un site qui a un passé culturel et historique et nous avions vraiment envie de mettre

ce festival au cœur de la ville», explique Ayas Hobby, responsable des relations publiques de la société organisatrice du festival, la Sepac.

Après avoir eu une première expérience en 1995 en Syrie, l'Union européenne a décidé de promouvoir cette année le concept d'une caravane de jazz itinérante dans les pays arabes. Après deux étapes syriennes, à Damas et à Alep, celle-ci s'arrêtera pour la première fois à Amman.

Elle amène avec elle une dizaine de groupes professionnels et accueillera une formation locale encore amateur.

L'occasion pour les musiciens jordaniens de l'Académie X de côtoyer certaines grosses pointures de la scène jazz européenne, comme le pianiste espagnol Tete Montoliu (voir encadré).

Du jazz oriental

La programmation permettra au public jordannien de découvrir que le jazz européen offre une grande diversité.

«Beaucoup de gens ne connaissent pas le jazz classique. Or, le jazz oriental existe, et il est notamment possible d'utiliser un instrument comme le «oud» pour jouer du jazz», explique Ayas Hobby. Le groupe allemand Rabbah Abou Khalil Quintet en fera la démonstration avec ses musiciens d'origine libanaise. Des sonorités africaines viendront se mêler à ce mélange musical avec le Sclav/Pifarely acoustic Quartet. Une formation française emmenée par le saxophoniste-

clarinettiste Louis Scelvis qui connaît dans le monde entier un grand succès. Invité initialement par le Centre culturel français pour jouer à la capitale, ce quartet a finalement, après accord des deux parties, intégré le festival euro-arabe, et jouera jeudi prochain.

permettre au plus grand nombre de profiter de ces concerts, les organisateurs ont fixé le prix d'entrée à 2 dinars. Des billets qui seront notamment disponibles à l'amphithéâtre même chaque jour de 10h00 à 13h00 et de 18h00 à 20h00, au magasin «Freddy for music» à l'hôtel «Al Qasr».

Aux restaurants «Castello» ou «Romero» et au café «Mokka». Avec une capacité de 6000 spectateurs, l'amphithéâtre devrait pouvoir accueillir tous les amateurs de jazz de la capitale. Ils n'auront qu'à se laisser guider par les notes résonnant sur les «jebels» entourant la basse-ville d'Amman.

Olivier Bras

Quarante ans de scène

Depuis près de quarante ans, Tete Montoliu, pianiste aveugle de naissance, sillonne la scène européenne de jazz. Né à Barcelone en 1933, il se produit pour la première fois en dehors d'Espagne dès 1958, au festival de jazz de Cannes, alors qu'il n'a que 25 ans.

Engagé ensuite au «Blue Note» de Berlin, il jouera notamment aux côtés de Chet Baker, avant de partir pour Copenhague où il accompagnera Archie Shepp ou Dexter Gordon.

Sa carrière l'amène aussi fréquemment aux États-Unis où il enregistre plusieurs disques. Sur scène, il alterne les concerts en solo, trio ou bien quartet. Sa musique s'est souvent inspirée de thèmes brésiliens, sud-américains ou catalans, mais il reste, même en solo, d'abord occupé par le swing.

Tete Montoliu, en concert le 10 juin à 21h30.

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

«L'accompagnatrice», de Claude Miller avec Richard et Romane Bohringer. Le 10 juin à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.

Théâtre

«La cantatrice chauve» d'Eugène Ionesco. Une pièce interprétée par les membres de l'Atelier théâtre du CCF. Le 09 juin à 20h00 au CCF.

Exposition

Rafic Majzoub, un jeune artiste palestinien s'inscrivant dans la mouvance de «l'art brut», expose ses toiles jusqu'au 27 juin au Centre culturel français.

Ses personnages, aux traits hâtivement dessinés et volontairement forcés, expriment à la fois ses délirés, ses fantasmes et sa révolte.



Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	699238
British Council	6361478	Philadelpia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Dar al Funun	664251		
Alia Art Gallery	634252		
Baladina Art Gallery	639303		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	671132		
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	673571		
	625155		

Sports Clubs	
Al Hussein Sports City	6671815
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Amman Mun. Library	636111
Univ. of Jordan Library	843555
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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

The Internet's borders-transcending character: An anarchist's nirvana & a legislator's nightmare

By Jawad Abbassi

Special to The Star
THE INTERNET'S millions of servers connected through phone lines and fibre optic networks manifest a truly global network of inter-connected information, across national borders.

Whereas governments and regional authorities—during the pre-Internet era—could easily ensure that all information printed or broadcast within their jurisdictional boundaries were in line with the effective laws, the Internet poses a great challenge to the notion that governments must have the ability to implement their passed laws. An Internet user in the Arab World could be viewing a WWW page—with a completely legitimate content—on a server in the Arab World. With just a couple of mouse clicks, he could end up browsing a web page in Sweden, whose pornographic content is against laws in his home country.

Another user in Germany can browse Neo-Nazi propaganda found on a server in the US—enjoying the first amendment's provision regarding freedom of speech—whereas such types of publications are illegal in Germany.

The dilemma lies in the fact that while Internet servers within the boundaries of countries could be made to contain only legal information, users can navigate through dozens of servers outside their countries. Therefore, these users can view information illegal in their homeland, but quite legal in other countries.

So far, there have been two

approaches to solving this dilemma: Some countries, like Saudi Arabia and China, just choose to completely shut off, or severely limit, access to the Internet because of the fears associated with uncontrolled information. The second approach, taken

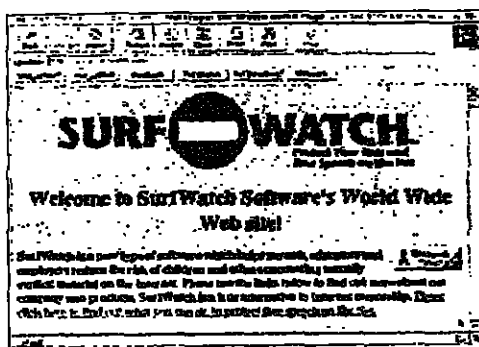
contained a specific word of a list of pre-defined words.

None of these methods is one 100 percent effective, though. The sites on the Internet increase by hundreds a day and constructing a list of "inappropriate" sites and maintaining it would be a virtually impossible task. Also blocking access to sites based on "key words" would probably block access to a page on the treatment of Breast Cancer because it contains the word "Breast" (this is actually a real life example faced by America On Line).

A new trend that is gaining ground is to have the web sites or news groups electronic discussion forums on the Internet rate their own content in a way similar to how movies are rated. The users can then block access to sites of a specific rating. Nevertheless, this self rating wouldn't be effective at all, since ratings will be very subjective depending on the cultural backgrounds of the sites' authors.

On the local scene, Jordan is one of the few Arab countries to favor full access to the Internet through our sole Internet service provider, Global One/Sprint Jordan.

Global One doesn't have any effective means for limiting access to the Web. Therefore, Jordanian users can, and do, access sites on the Internet that contain illegal content according to Jordanian laws. However, Sprint Jordan does control access to the easy-to-control news-groups and limits access to those whose content are in accordance



by most countries, was to favour the Internet's functionality as a cheap and reliable communications and research tool, over the fears of easy access to illegal information.

However, the second group of countries still maintain that the Internet's novelty and sophisticated technology doesn't entail that it should always remain outside the umbrella of legislation. The trend, therefore, is to connect to the Internet while at the same time encouraging research on methods for efficient censorship of content.

Up-to-date, the Internet's content can be controlled by one of three methods: There are software packages, like Surf Watch, which can block sites containing inappropriate information. According to user criteria, whole sections of the Internet could be kept out of reach. In fact, access to sites could be denied if they

are in accordance

with Jordanian Laws.

As for Jordan's commercial BBS systems, NETS and Access, their self contained computer servers are the best guarantee that content is in accordance with Jordanian laws and regulations. Access, for example, utilizes a rudimentary profanity check on email messages by its subscribers which could easily be foiled by transliterating the profanity. NETS on the other hand doesn't automatically screen the content of messages for profanities, but reserves the right to delete any message containing profanities and/or defamations of people from its conferences.

The legislator's fantasy of a day when there is a sure way to censor the Internet seems will not materialize for some time. Until then, anarchists will have it their way.

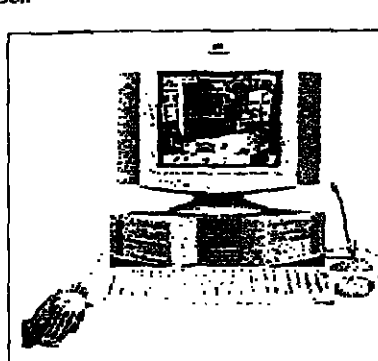
Introducing advanced multimedia and functionality to the local PC market, from a leading international name: Packard Bell PCs in Jordan

ARAB COMPUTERS & Management Services (ACMS) has recently been appointed as the distributor for Packard Bell products in the Jordanian market. Packard Bell is a leading international PC brand, which has very high penetration in the home PC and corporate PC markets.

In fact, Packard Bell PCs rank among the top sellers in the US. Multimedia and multi-functionality are the strong points of Packard Bell's systems, which incorporate an all-in-one design, utilizing multimedia, telephone and fax, and recently remote control functions.

You can listen to your CD or radio, while you make a hands free phone call through your computer using the provided microphone. What's more, you can even perform Windows functions through a special remote control unit which optionally replaces your mouse. For communications, you can send and receive faxes, or turn

through your modem. These features come together to solve a number of different problems faced by home office and small office businesses. In fact, Packard Bell believes that these features, along with the educational and entertaining aspects of multimedia on offer, make their systems the ultimate choice for users in need of an all-purpose



machine. Apparently, judging by the success of Packard Bell multimedia systems worldwide, there is truth in this claim.

There's a great need for tools of knowledge in the country. Multimedia systems from Packard Bell with modems cater for the home and school markets, and other telephony options from Packard Bell provide complete office facilities to users," commented Ms. Mona Nazzari, the manager of ACMS.

"By providing educational packages for kids on the one hand, and corporate solutions on the other, we have found that there is a wide range of interested users for Packard Bell products in Jordan," she added.

Pricing for Packard Bell Multimedia PCs range from JD 2,000 to JD 3,000, depending on the speeds of Pentium processors included. For more information on Packard Bell, contact Arab Computers & Management Services (ACMS) at telephone 601534 or fax 688100.

News update

Intel to introduce video-phone technologies in next PCs

Beginning this summer most entry-level home computers should come equipped with the 133-megahertz chip and a new version of the video-phone concept as standard in its coming Pentium systems. These will

MIG to announce Olivetti distributorship in Jordan

Mirage Information Systems (MIG) is to announce that it has been appointed as an Olivetti distributor in Jordan. Olivetti is one of the leading PC makers in Europe, and has ample experience in the business, with many years behind it. Olivetti's range of PCs and peripherals is extensive, covering all types of hardware. MIG will offer most Olivetti products to Jordanian users, and will support them with training and service. For more information on Olivetti products, contact MIG at telephone 863808.

Windows 97?

A news piece in BYTE Middle East stated that the next version of Windows would be introduced soon, and that it would be a modified version of Windows NT, that retains the Windows 95 user-interface. Hence, it may be unofficially code-named, Windows 97. In any case, their could be some good news for Arab users, as the unified user-interface strategy adopted by Microsoft could possibly mean last introduction of an Arabic version of new operating system. Moving away from the realities of the present, we await the Arabic version of Windows 95, which is scheduled for release this August.

New pricing model for GroupWise from Novell

From June 1, 1996, pricing for Novell's GroupWise messaging system is moving to a pre-user model, making it easier to buy, sell and design GroupWise solutions. This system means that organizations simply total the number of users on the system and purchase a corresponding number of mailbox licenses. The new core product will also include a number of components that were formerly sold separately. For more information, contact Novell Middle East in Dubai at telephone ++971 4 316444 or fax ++971 4 319248.



Bookmakers favor Germany but watch out for France

LONDON—Germany starts out as the bookmakers' favorite when the European championship kicks off on Saturday but watch out for France, unbeaten in two-and-a-half years and with eight successive wins under their belt.

The following is a group-by-group form guide to the 16-nation finals.

Group A (England, Netherlands, Scotland, Switzerland)

Two question marks and two outsiders. The Dutch have so much talent in their squad they must be favorites to top the group but an indifferent qualifying campaign and some up-and-down results since give rise to certain doubts about their ability to maintain traditional Clockwork Orange standards.

But a team built around the exciting Ajax Amsterdam side with Danny Blind and Frank de Boer directing from the back, Edgar Davids and Richard Witschge pulling the midfield strings and Patrick Kluijvert and Dennis Bergkamp taking pot shots at goal has the potential to go all the way—if they click.

England is harder to assess as they have not played a true competitive match since 1993. Only one defeat in the last two years—to world champions

Brazil—suggests they have steel but their performances have lacked both fire and invention.

Last time they hosted a major tournament they ran out winners in the 1966 World Cup final at Wembley but then they had Bobby Charlton and Bobby Moore. Now they are relying heavily on Paul Ince to protect a suspect defense. Paul Gascoigne to provide inspiration and Alan Shearer to get goals—something he has not done in an England shirt for almost two years.

Scotland will be fired up to spring a surprise against old enemies England at Wembley but they have a squad which could charitably be described as moderate. The Swiss appear in decline since coach Roy Hodgson left for Internazionale Milan.

Group B (Bulgaria, France, Romania, Spain)

France, the only one of the four not at the 1994 World Cup finals, now look head and shoulders above the rest after their stunning run of 22 matches without defeat, a series which has included away wins over Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and Romania in a vital qualifying match.

Able to dispense with the



The German Team

services of Eric Cantona, the French have, in new heroes Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff, the most gifted midfield creators since Michel Platini and Alain Giresse. A tough defense and great midfield half-winners in Christian Karembeu and Didier Deschamps give them the quality of potential champions if the breaks go their way.

Romania, whose cultured style depends on the artful left foot of Gheorghe Hagi, and Spain, who have a more prosaic game based on the power and purpose of Fernando Hierro, should contest second place with the more experienced Romanians.

Bulgaria, World Cup semi-finalists two years ago, appear to be over the hill and can only hope Hristo Stoichkov and company rediscover their old zest.

Group C (Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Russia)

Germany are bookmakers' favorites but that is based more on their consistent past record of reaching the later stages of tournaments rather than on the strength of their squad as Italy and Russia both look as if they could be more than a match.

Italy have spluttered fitfully in the build-up to the finals but

if Paolo Maldini, Dino Baggio, Fabrizio Ravanelli, Alessandro Del Piero and Gianfranco Zola open up on full throttle, heaven help the rest.

Russia have two of the most dynamic back four players in the world in Yuri Nikiforov and Viktor Onopko and, with Alexander Mostovoi suppling the penetrative passes and Andrei Kanchelskis at full tilt down the wing, they could be as impressive as in 1988 when, as the Soviet Union, they reached the final.

The Czech Republic are outsiders but perfectly capable of staging an upset, all of which should give the Germans grounds to doubt, especially as Germany's key midfielders Andy Moeller, Thomas Haeßler and Mario Basler have not been at their best of late.

But if brilliant newcomer Mehmet Scholl takes up the slack and his Bayern Munich teammate Juergen Klinsmann hits his usual goal-scoring heights, Germany could stay in the hunt.

Group D (Croatia, Denmark, Portugal, Turkey)

Denmark is defending champion but Portugal, in their first major finals in 10 years, and Croatia, competing at this level for the first time, are favorites for the last eight.

The imposing presence of Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel and the fraternal alliance of the Laudrup—Michael and Brian—may not be enough for the Danes to repeat the fairy tale of four years ago when they won the title as last-minute Yugoslavians.

Portugal should be one of the most polished teams on view with Rui Costa masterminding the operation. Luis Figo jinking around every defender in sight, Domingos Bating in goals and Vitor Baia saving everything thrown at him at the other end.

The Portuguese, who also have the likes of Fernando Couto, Paulo Sousa and Joao Pinto at their disposal, boast a new generation of players who have matured at the same time.

Croatia do too and many other teams envy them a lineup including Alan Boksic, Zvonimir Boban, Davor Suker and Robert Jarni. But ultimate ambitions of glory must be muted by fear that their defense lacks the flair of their attack.

Turkey, who have also qualified for the first time, should not expect miracles. Those were all cornered by Denmark in 1992.

England united by furor, Platt and Venables say

MARLOW, England—Morale and unity in the England camp ahead of Euro '96 have been boosted by the fallout from the players' behavior on last month's tour of China and Hong Kong, captain David Platt said on Tuesday.

Manager Terry Venables said on Monday the team had accepted collective responsibility for the damage to two television sets and a table on the Cathay Pacific flight home from the tour. He said unspecified fines would be imposed on all the players.

Platt and Venables both said the events of the last week had brought the squad together.

"I don't think there was any easy way out but we believe that (collective responsibility) was the right way out for the squad," Platt said. "This shows that we are together and that's the important thing for the next 30 days."

"It's made them more determined," said Venables at the team's training ground west of London last Tuesday.

England open the European championship with a match at Wembley against Switzerland on Saturday. "Nothing less than winning the tournament would be acceptable," Platt said.

The squad, which was kept under wraps on Monday because of the furor over their behavior in Asia, trained for two hours in bright sunshine on Tuesday, joking and laughing among themselves.

Striker Les Ferdinand and defender Tony Adams sat out Tuesday's training session but both insisted they were merely resting as a precaution.

Ferdinand has had a groin strain and Adams a calf problem. Venables said he had decided on the team for Saturday's opening game but would not announce it publicly until the day of the match.

The England squad attracted more national anger last week when photographs were published of some players drinking and half-naked in a Hong Kong night club.

But Venables defended his players. "After 2 1/2 weeks of preparing I said they could have a good night out," he said. "They were all back in on time, OK, the pictures weren't very attrac-

tive but nobody's property was touched."

Politicians and newspapers poured scorn on the results of Venables' inquiry into the aircraft incident, condemning his findings as a whitewash.

"Senseless" said the Daily Mail newspaper on Tuesday. "England rather said the Daily Mirror, calling the Venables announcement 'farce'."

"It is a damning indictment of the state of our game. And it makes England the laughing stock of the world only four days before the start of the European championship," said the Mirror.

Politicians said the outcome set a bad example to soccer fans and children ahead of a tournament which has been overshadowed by fears about soccer hooliganism.

"This is a splendid cover-up. They should tell us exactly who was responsible and exactly how much they have been fined," said Conservative member of Parliament David Wilshire.

"I still believe the people responsible for that activity should be kept out of the England team, irrespective of how much damage that would do to our chances."

Liberal Democrat Menzies Campbell said the outcome had devalued the whole side. "Parents of children who follow the England team will be appalled if it is true that no player would own up to causing damage on the plane home."

"What kind of example do international players set if they are not willing to take responsibility for their own actions?" Campbell said.

In Hong Kong, Cathay Pacific said it had reached an acceptable settlement with the English FA for the damage caused by their jumbo jet.

"Cathay Pacific can confirm that a full and final settlement for damages to on-board equipment has been reached," spokesman Kwan Chuk-fai said. The terms of the settlement were acceptable to both parties, he said but declined to comment further.

Majestic Schumacher defies the rain

WORLD CHAMPION Michael Schumacher defied the appalling conditions to secure his first victory for the Ferrari team at the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona, last week. The German displayed majestic form in the pouring rain to secure a historic victory in a race which only saw six finishers.

World Championship leader Damon Hill, driving the Rothmans Williams Renault, spun out for the third time on the eleventh lap and retired while his teammate Canadian Jacques Villeneuve finished in third place, behind Frenchman Jean Alesi. German Heinz Harald Frentzen was fourth, Mika Hakkinen fifth and Pedro Diniz in sixth place.

Hill still retains the lead in the World Championship, after seven rounds, with Villeneuve and Schumacher sharing second place, 17 points adrift.

RACE QUALIFICATION — AFTER 65 LAPS

1. Michael Schumacher	GER	Scuderia Ferrari	1:59.49.307
2. Jean Alesi	FRA	Mild Seven Benetton Renault	+45.302
3. Jacques Villeneuve	CAN	Rothmans Williams Renault	+48.388
4. Heinz Harald Frentzen	GER	Red Bull Sauber Ford	+1 LAP
5. Mika Hakkinen	FIN	Martini McLaren Mercedes	+1 LAP
6. Pedro Diniz	BRE	Ligier Gauloises Blondes	+2 LAPS

DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. D. Hill	GER	43
2. J. Villeneuve	CAN	26
3. M. Schumacher	GER	26

CONSTRUCTORS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Williams Renault	69
2. Ferrari	35
3. Benetton Renault	24